

2 workers killed in Tenn. post office shooting

By ADRIAN SAINZ,
Associated Press Writer

HENNING, Tenn. — Two gunmen opened fire Monday at a post office in a rural West Tennessee town that was home to “Roots” author Alex Haley, killing two workers during an attempted robbery. The shooting happened Monday morning at the one-story, brick building in Henning, the Lauderdale County Sheriff’s Department said. Officers were searching for a maroon Chevrolet Malibu with two men inside, and no arrests have been made. District Attorney Mike Dunavant said the case involved “disturbing violence” but did not elaborate.

The post office, which sits between a self-service car wash and a coin-operated laundry called “Mom’s” in this town of about 1,200 people, often has residents coming in to pick up their mail. Home delivery isn’t provided in Henning, some 45 miles northeast of Memphis.

Beth Barnett, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Postal Service, said that five people usually work in the post office but that she was not sure how many were there at the time of the attack. Post offices are not immune to crime, but robberies at post offices are uncommon, she said.

The American Postal Workers Union said a retail clerk and a rural carrier associate — both women — were slain. Their names have not been released.

Mary Hammock, who works at a nearby market, said Monday afternoon that she had been in the post office about 8:25 a.m. and noticed it was not as loud or busy as normal. □



FILE - In this May 21, 2009 file photo, James Cromitie, center, is led by police officers from a federal building in New York after being arrested for plotting to bomb New York synagogues and shoot down military aircraft. Four men snared in an FBI terrorism sting were convicted Monday in a plot to blow up New York City synagogues and shoot down military planes.

(AP Photo/Robert Mecea, File)

4 men are convicted in NY synagogue-bombing plot

By TOM HAYS,

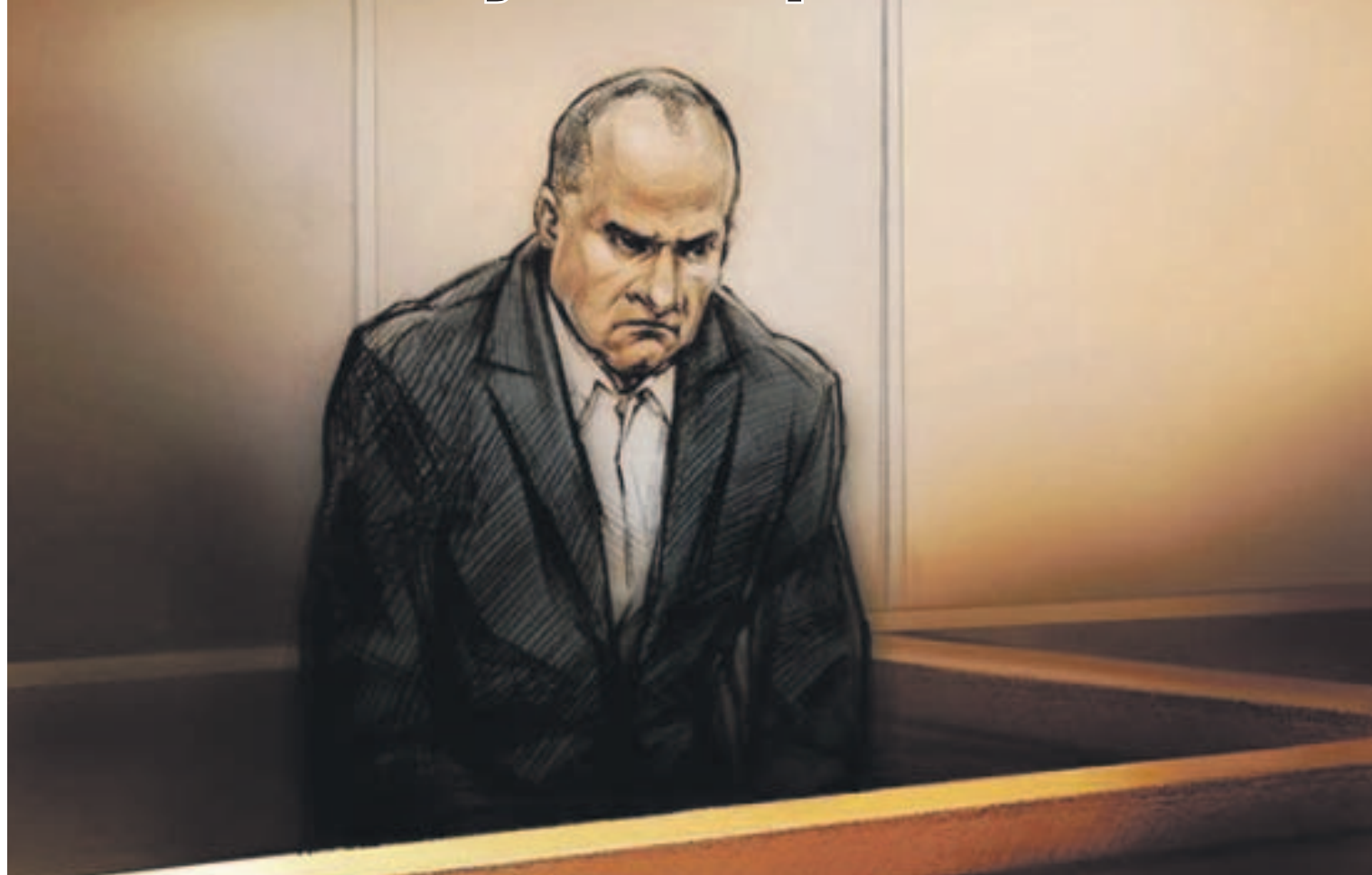
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Four men snared last year in an FBI sting were convicted Monday of plotting to blow up New York City synagogues and shoot down military planes with the help of a paid informant who convinced them he was a terror operative. The sting never put New Yorkers at risk. But the defendants “thought this was real — real bombs, real missiles — every step of the way,” Assistant U.S. Attorney David Raskin said during closing arguments.

A jury in federal court in Manhattan deliberated eight days before finding alleged mastermind James Cromitie and three co-defendants guilty of charges including conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction and conspiracy to acquire and use anti-aircraft missiles to kill U.S. officers and employees. Cromitie and David Williams were convicted of all eight counts, while Onta Williams and Laguerre Payen were convicted of seven of eight counts.

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Canadian military officer exposed as serial killer



Col. Russell Williams is shown in a sketch during a court appearance in Belleville, Ont., Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010. Williams, a former top military officer, intends to plead guilty on Oct. 18 to charges of first-degree murder, sexual assault, and break and enter, his lawyer told an Ontario Superior Court judge Thursday.

CHARMAINE NORONHA
Associated Press Writer

BELLEVILLE, Ontario (AP) — He was a square-jawed Canadian Air Force officer with a brilliant future, a man entrusted with flying prime ministers and Queen Elizabeth II.

On Monday, he was exposed as a serial killer with a shocking fetish for girls’ panties that he documented in a trove of twisted photos of himself. At a hearing that reduced victims’ relatives to tears, the lurid photos were shown one by one in court as Col. Russell

Williams, 47, pleaded guilty to murdering two women, sexually assaulting two others and committing dozens of break-ins in which he stole underwear from the bedrooms of girls as young as 11.

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Lawyer: Octuplets' mom implanted with 12 embryos



Fertility specialist Dr. Michael Kamrava prepares for a hearing before the California Board of Medical Examiners on possible suspension or revocation of his medical license, in Los Angeles Monday, Oct. 18, 2010. He is accused of "grossly negligent" treatment of "Octomom" Nadya Suleman and another patient.

(AP Photo/Reed Saxon)

By SHAYA TAYEFE
MOHAJER,

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Nadya Suleman's fertility doctor implanted a dozen embryos in the pregnancy that gave her octuplets, a state attorney

said Monday, a number that another doctor said was unheard of and that surpasses Suleman's assertion that only six embryos were implanted.

Dr. Michael Kamrava's action endangered the mother and violated national standards of care, Deputy Attorney General Judith Alvarado said at the Medical Board of California's hearing to consider revoking or suspending the Beverly Hills physician's license.

Kamrava "knew that a 12-embryo transfer was unsafe," Alvarado said in her opening statement. National guidelines issued by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine specify no more than two embryos are to be used in in vitro treatments for a healthy woman under 35.

The board has set aside two weeks for the hearing to determine whether Kamrava was negligent.

Dr. Victor Y. Fujimoto, an expert witness for the medical board and director of the University of California San Francisco In Vitro Fertilization Program, testified Monday that 12 embryos or blastocysts

being transferred into a uterus is unheard of. He reviewed hundreds of pages of medical records from Suleman and other patients prior to giving testimony.

"I cannot imagine any colleague of mine transferring that many embryos," said Fujimoto, adding he'd never transferred that many himself. High-order multiple births can result in long-term developmental delays, cerebral palsy and various life-threatening ailments.

There are no hard-and-fast rules, but fertility specialists have criticized Kamrava's methods, saying he endangered Suleman's health and the long-term health of the babies. Suleman's babies, born nine weeks premature in January 2009, are the world's longest-surviving set of octuplets.

Suleman, a 33-year-old divorced single mother of 14, has said Kamrava implanted her with six embryos for each of her six pregnancies and two of them split when she had octuplets.

Fujimoto said Suleman, identified as N.S. by the medical board, actually

requested 12 blastocysts to be transferred into her, but it's the physician's job to make a decision not to transfer embryos, even when a patient insists.

Much of Monday's testimony went beyond fertility medicine claims, as Kamrava is accused of failing to refer Suleman for a mental health evaluation before giving her repeated fertility treatments.

Fujimoto said Kamrava made an "extreme departure from standard of care" by failing to refer Suleman to a mental health evaluation after she said she wanted twins on the heels of delivering her second child.

Her request, Fujimoto said, came in October 2002, after Suleman had borne two children through Kamrava's treatments who were only 17 months and 4 months old.

"For me it raises a huge red flag," Fujimoto said. "It's a very unique request for twins after having just had a second child. In my opinion at that point it would have been reasonable to ask the patient or to request a mental health evaluation."

Typically, expenses, health concerns or other factors preclude parents who are struggling to conceive from having more than one or two successful in vitro treatments. Monday's testimony also called into question claims Suleman has made in past interviews that she underwent the in vitro treatment that led to the octuplets because she didn't want her frozen embryos to go to waste. Fujimoto testified that she never used frozen embryos and has 29 frozen embryos available.

Records obtained by The Associated Press show that

before 2001, Suleman was treated with Celexa and Sonata for depression and sleeplessness, and Clonopin for anxiety.

Before the octuplets' birth, the unemployed Suleman and her six children lived with her mother, relying on food stamps, school loans and disability payments for her two autistic children to get by. More recently, Suleman has tried to use her notoriety for income through the tabloid media, but she struggles to pay rent and is facing a \$450,000 balloon payment on her La Habra home.

Unlike Suleman, Kamrava has kept a low profile and declined repeated requests for interview from The Associated Press. In July, he made a rare appearance in an ABC "Nightline" interview, defending his treatment of Suleman by saying it was "done the right way."

Though other doctors in the field say they're not impressed with it, Kamrava has long touted a method of in vitro fertilization that implants an embryo — or sometimes sperm with an unfertilized egg — directly into the uterine lining.

Kamrava suffered a blow to his prestige last year when he was kicked out of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, but the nonprofit group does not have legal authority to prevent him from practicing medicine.

The board's accusation says Kamrava was also negligent in his treatment of two other patients. He is accused of implanting too many embryos in one patient, resulting in the death of a fetus, and failing to refer another woman to a cancer specialist after finding cysts on her ovaries. □



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Soldier: Fort Hood gunman did not target anyone

FORT HOOD, Texas — A gunman who appeared to be trying to hit any Army personnel who moved during a deadly rampage at Fort Hood last year fatally shot a pregnant soldier who had recently returned from Iraq, a military court heard Monday.

Spc. Jonathan Sims said he had been talking to a female soldier when the first volley of gunfire rang out. She had just told him she was expecting a baby and was preparing to go home.

“The female soldier that was sitting next to me was in the fetal position. She was screaming: ‘My baby! My baby!’” Sims told the Article 32 hearing to determine if Army psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Hasan will stand trial in the Nov. 5 shootings the worst attack on an American military base.

Hasan, a 40-year-old American-born Muslim, has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder.

Addressing the hearing via video link from Afghanistan, Sims said he later saw nurses performing first aid on the woman, but that her eyes had rolled back and he knew she was dead. Pvt. Francheska Velez, a 21-year-old from Chicago, had become pregnant while serving in Iraq. She was among the 13 killed in the Fort Hood attack.

Spc. Dayna Roscoe testified Monday afternoon that she went to the medical building Nov. 5 to get the results of a pregnancy test. The building was crowded, and she was waiting in an overflow area when the shots started.

“I hear someone saying, ‘My baby, my baby.’ Someone saying, ‘Get down,’” Roscoe said.

The gunman came into the overflow area and shot her in the left arm as she hid in a chair with her arms wrapped around her head, she said. He turned away, fired in another direction and then came back and shot her twice more, hitting her leg.

When the gunman left, another soldier came to help her and another woman who was wounded.

The soldier helping “was asking for her name, and she said she’d been shot in the abdomen and was bleeding,” Roscoe said. “She wanted someone to tell her family that she loved them and that she wasn’t going to make it.”

Ten soldiers testified Monday, as the second week of the hearing started. Many had been shot.

Pfc. Justin Johnson said the shooter opened fire on a crowded waiting area and then walked around the building.

“He was aiming his weapon on the ground and he started shooting, and he was hitting people that were trying to get away,” Johnson testified by video link from Kandahar in Afghanistan.

“It didn’t seem like he was targeting a specific person, sir. He was just shooting at anybody.”

Johnson, who was shot three times in the attack and still has a bullet wedged in his lungs, said he saw the shooter for about five to seven seconds. He was not asked to identify him in court. Several witnesses testified last week that they made eye contact with Hasan and identified him as the Fort Hood gunman.

The investigating officer at the hearing, Col. James L. Pohl, said earlier this year that he wanted to hear from the almost three dozen people who were wounded in the attack. The Article 32 hearing is unique to the military in that Pohl, along with prosecutors and defense attorneys, can call witnesses.

At some point after the hearing, Pohl will recommend whether Hasan should go to trial and if the Army should seek the death penalty. That recommendation will go to Col. Morgan Lamb, a Fort Hood brigade commander appointed to oversee judicial matters in Hasan’s case, and then to the commanding general, who will make the final decision.

Witnesses last week told similar stories of how a balding man in an Army combat uniform stood by a front counter, shouted “Allahu Akbar!” “God is great!” in Arabic and started shooting at unarmed soldiers in a building where they went for routine medical tests before deploying.

When the shooting started, some startled soldiers thought it was a training exercise.

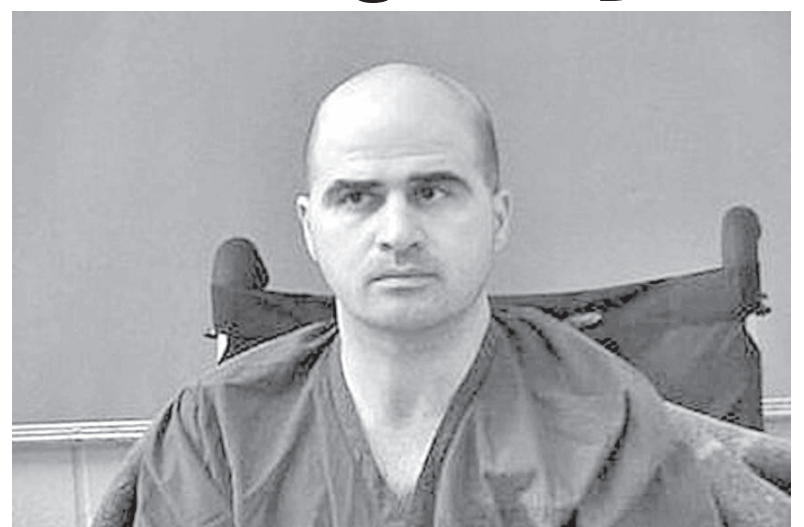
Sgt. Miguel Valdivia said he hit the ground but became impatient, thinking that whatever drill was going on seemed to be taking a long time. When the shooter came toward him, he looked up.

“We made eye contact,” Valdivia said. “He raised his arm, his weapon, and raised it at me.”

Valdivia, who demonstrated from the witness stand how the gun was pointed at him, said he turned away, exposing his right side, and got shot three times, in his leg, thigh and hip.

“When I saw my own blood, then I realized it was real,” he said.

Upcoming witnesses are expected to include the two Fort Hood police officers credited with taking the gunman down. Hasan, who was paralyzed from the chest down after being shot, remains jailed. □



Disabilities no longer a death sentence for pets

RALEIGH, N.C. — When Beverly Tucker’s dog Tobi ruptured a disc in his back, the veterinarian gave her a stark choice: expensive surgery with little chance of success, or euthanasia.

Like a growing number of pet owners, Tucker opted for a third choice thanks to medical advances and shifting attitudes about animal care. She bought a wheeled cart specially fitted for Tobi’s hind legs, restoring mobility to her paralyzed pooch. “I would never have my dog put down,” Tucker said. “Our option was the wheels, and we’re going strong ever since.”

Pets with disabilities ranging from spinal injuries to deafness still struggle more than healthy counterparts, but their futures are no longer as grim as before. An industry catering to owners of disabled pets has sprung up, offering everything from carts to chiropractors specializing in canine spines.

Even in an economic slump, people are willing to pamper their pets.

Total spending on pets has grown each year since the recession began, rising from \$41.2 billion in 2007 to an estimated \$47.7 billion this year, according to the American Pet Products Association.

“The pet business has evolved greatly, especially over the last five years,” said Leslie May, founder of industry consultant Pawsible Marketing. “When people think of pets as family members, they look for resources to meet their pets’ needs.”

Animal health specialists, rescue volunteers and medical supply makers all say they’ve seen a growing willingness in the American public to adopt or care for pets with ailments that once would have certainly been euthanized.

Dianne Dunning, director of the Animal Welfare, Ethics and Public Policy Program at N.C. State University, said that shift has shadowed breakthroughs in veterinary medicine.

“You’re seeing in many cases now that pets are equivalent in status to children within a family,” she said.

It was much different 21 years ago, when Buddha, a Doberman owned by Ed and Leslie Grinnell, awoke one morning unable to use her hind legs. □



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Obama: Future depends on science, math education



WASHINGTON – A device to discourage texting while driving. A self-powered hydroelectric water purification device. A test of whether foam really is the best material to pad the inside of a safety helmet.

These projects weren't put together by some of the country's best scientists, but were assembled by up-and-comers who won a range of science, technology, engineering and math competitions. They brought their projects to a science fair at the White House on Monday.

President Barack Obama reveled in it. He spent nearly an hour viewing 11 science projects on display in the State Dining Room, ranging from cancer therapies to solar-power cars, water purification systems and robotic wheelchairs. And he intensely questioned the presenters.

"It's hard to describe just how impressive these young people are," Obama, who is emphasizing math and science education, said afterward at a reception. Their work "is a testament to the potential that awaits when we inspire young people to take part in the scientific enterprise."

Obama, who shows a personal fascination with science, said these victories often go unnoticed.

"You know, when you win first place at a science fair, nobody's rushing the field or dumping Gatorade over your head," said Obama, who has welcomed many championship professional and college athletic teams to the White House.

"But in many ways, our future depends on what happens in those contests, what happens when a young person is engaged in conducting an experiment or writing a piece of software or solving a hard math problem or designing a new gadget," he said.

Obama said the U.S. is being outpaced by other countries and he wants American students to move from the middle to the top in science and math over the decade. He also announced his appearance in an episode of "Mythbusters," a Discovery Channel program that uses science to uncover the truth behind urban legends. Obama has already taped his appearance and the episode is scheduled to air Dec. 8. Discovery said that episode will consider whether Greek scientist Archimedes set fire to an invading Roman fleet using only mirrors and the reflected rays of the sun.

Now about those helmets.

Three boys from Los Angeles explained their testing method to Obama and said they concluded that foam isn't the best material to protect the head in a bike or other safety helmet. A gel liner is best, they said, but it's also more expensive. □



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Poll: Enthusiasm gap favoring Republicans no myth

By LIZ SIDOTI,

AP National Political Writer

WASHINGTON – The enthusiasm gap between Democrats and Republicans in the first midterm elections of President Barack Obama's presidency is no myth — and his party may suffer hugely in two weeks because of it.

Just half of those who voted for Obama in 2008 say they will definitely show up Nov. 2 while two-thirds of those who voted for Republican presidential nominee John McCain in the last election say they're certain to vote next month, according to an Associated Press-Knowledge Networks poll. The difference in the excitement level between the two parties is buoying Republicans, who are poised for big electoral gains, and worrying Democrats, who are seeking to hang onto majorities in Congress as well among governors. Obama's party hopes its superior get-out-the-vote operation, updated from his groundbreaking campaign, can overcome Republicans' energized supporters to mitigate expected losses across the board.

Nearly two years after putting Obama in the White House, the survey also found that one-quarter of those who voted for the Democrat are defecting to the GOP or considering voting against the party in power in November. Yet in a reflection of broad dissatisfaction with politics, just as many people who backed McCain are either supporting Democrats now or still considering how to vote.

To find out how the electorate's political views have changed since the 2008 election, the AP and Knowledge Networks re-interviewed the same 1,254 people who were part of a random sample of Americans surveyed up to 11 times throughout the 2008 campaign by the two organizations and Yahoo News.

While no president can be expected to fully rally his supporters when he's not on the ballot, the survey illustrates the wide scope of Obama voters' disappointment with the president and his policies almost halfway through his first term — and two years before he's likely to seek their backing again. □



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FILE - In these May 21, 2009 file photos, Onta Williams and David Williams are led by police officers from a federal building in New York after being arrested by the FBI on charges for plotting to bomb New York synagogues and shoot down military aircraft. Four men snared in an FBI terrorism sting were convicted Monday in a plot to blow up New York City synagogues and shoot down military planes. A jury reached the verdict Monday Oct. 18, 2010 in federal court in Manhattan after deliberating for more than a week.

(AP Photo/Robert Mecea)

BOMBING PLOT

Continued from Front Page

Sentencing was set for March 24, when the defendants could face up to life in prison.

Afterward, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara in a statement called homegrown terrorism a "serious threat" and added: "We are safer today as a result of these convictions." He said the defendants agreed to plant bombs and use missiles "they thought were very real weapons of terrorism."

Defense lawyers said they will appeal.

"This is a miscarriage of justice — just like the whole trial and case," said Susanne Brody, who represents Onta Williams.

The lawyer for Payen, Samuel Braverman, said his client was "stunned." The trial featured 13 days of testimony by undercover informant Shahed Hussain, who met Cromitie at a mosque north of New York City. Prosecutors also relied on hundreds of hours of video and audiotape of the men discussing the scheme at the informant's home, handling fake weapons — even praying together.

The defense sought to diminish the tapes' impact by calling them a "movie written, produced and directed" by the FBI.

The film director, lawyers said, was Hussain — a 53-year-old Pakistani immigrant they sought to portray as a master manipulator who entrapped a crew of aimless nobodies. They also argued he would do anything to win the government's favor and escape serious punishment in a separate fraud case.

Hussain "is a liar, straight up," Cromitie's lawyer, Vincent Briccetti, told jurors. "He's not just any old liar — he lied to you."

Added Briccetti: "Without the help of the FBI, Cromitie wasn't going to do anything."

The FBI assigned Hussain in 2008 to infiltrate a mosque in Newburgh, about an hour north of New York. After meeting Cromitie, he told him he was a representative of a Pakistani terror organization that was eager to finance a holy war on U.S. soil.

Prosecutors alleged that in meetings with Hussain, the 44-year-old Cromitie hatched the scheme to blow up the synagogues in the Bronx with remote-controlled bombs. They say he also recruited the other men — Onta Williams, 34, David Williams, 29, and Payen, 28 — to help him shoot down cargo planes at the Air National Guard base in Newburgh with heat-seeking missiles. Onta and David Williams are

not related.

Agents arrested the men in 2009 after they planted the devices — fakes supplied by the FBI — in the Riverdale section of the Bronx while under heavy surveillance.

In one of several videos played at trial, the men could be seen practicing with a shoulder missile launcher and praying together in a bugged warehouse in Connecticut two weeks before the planned attack. At the end of the tape, Cromitie, two of his cohorts and the informant bow their heads in prayer.

In other tapes, Cromitie was heard ranting against Jews and expressing his desire to retaliate against U.S. military aggression in the Middle East.

"I'm ready to do this damn thing," he said. "Anything for the cause."

Prosecutors said the tapes proved the defendants didn't need prompting by the defendant to launch an attack.

"The FBI did exactly what it's supposed to do — it caught four dangerous men before they could do any real harm," Raskin said. "Ordinary people wouldn't even dream of what these defendants did." Last week, a judge denied a request for a mistrial after a juror came across a document in an evidence binder that shouldn't have been there. The juror was dismissed. □

Police kill NY college football player from Mass.

By JIM FITZGERALD,
Associated Press Writer

THORNWOOD, N.Y. — A college football player parked in a fire lane outside a bar sped away from police rapping on his car window, hit an officer who clung to the hood as the sedan barreled toward a colleague, and was killed by a burst of police gunfire that pierced his windshield, authorities said.

Danroy "D.J." Henry, 20, had just played for Pace University in front of screaming fans during its homecoming football game against Stonehill College of Easton, Mass. — the junior defensive player's hometown. Hours later, hysterical students screamed on the sidewalk around his dying, handcuffed body.

The New York State Police joined Monday in an investigation of the events involving three local police officers early Sunday, which a chief of one of the departments called "horrendous." The victim's family and friends were skeptical of the account of events police gave.

Brandon Cox, a passenger in Henry's car who was grazed by a police bullet, said he and the victim's family "won't rest until we get justice for D.J." He called Henry his best friend.

"In my heart, what went on that night ... it didn't need to come to that," Cox said at a news conference outside his family's home in Easton. □



Roxanne Lloyd, right, carries a picture of her daughter Jessica Lloyd, while her son Andy Lloyd, left, walks next to her as they arrive at court in Belleville, Ont., on Monday, October 18, 2010 to hear the charges for Russell Williams, who was the commander of CFB Trenton, Canada's largest military airbase. Williams pleaded guilty Monday to two first-degree murder charges. He has not yet entered a plea for the other charges, but his lawyer said earlier this month that Williams would plead guilty to all charges.

CANADIAN OFFICER

Continued from Front Page

He faces an automatic sentence of life in prison with no possibility for parole for at least 25 years. Williams was expressionless and dressed in a somber dark suit. He kept his head down during the 40 minutes it took to read all the charges.

Until his double life came to light with his arrest earlier this year, Williams was the commander of Canada's largest Air Force base and served as a pilot for some of the country's top leaders and

for the queen during a 2005 visit. The charges against the elite pilot — a tall, fit figure who did his job with quiet diligence and appeared to be in a stable marriage — shocked the country and its military with the possibility of a serial killer in its officer corps.

"The tragic events surrounding Col. Russell Williams stunned all Canadians and none more so than the members of the Canadian Forces. Today's guilty plea is the first step in a healing process that will no doubt take many years," said Gen. Walt Natynczyk, chief

Associated Press
of the defense staff and a Canadian Forces spokesman.

Among other things, Williams pleaded guilty to murdering Jessica Lloyd, 27, whose body was found in February, and Marie Comeau, a 38-year-old corporal under his command who was found dead in her home last November. Both women were asphyxiated.

Williams also pleaded guilty to attacking two other women during separate home invasions in the Tweed, Ontario, area in 2009. One of the women, a 21-year-old single mother, said she was

tied up, blindfolded, stripped and held captive for more than two hours while he forced her into sexual acts and photographed her.

Prosecutors said Williams targeted girls and women in their teens and 20s and often photographed himself in their underwear, which he then stole and catalogued at home. At the sentencing hearing following his guilty plea, prosecutors warned the court they would be presenting evidence that was "extremely disturbing." Prosecutor Lee Burgess said many of the facts would be difficult for his victims to hear, but it was "important to have a full account of the crimes."

Burgess began by presenting photos of Williams wearing a 12-year-old girl's cartoon-decorated underwear.

Many of the pictures showed a serious-looking Williams masturbating in or with the stolen lingerie. In one picture, he appears to be wearing his military uniform with his trousers dropped to expose pink panties.

Stunned onlookers in the courtroom wept. Jessica Lloyd's mother, Roxanne Lloyd, clutched a framed photo of her daughter and wiped away tears.

Authorities said Williams carefully catalogued the photos of himself with time and date stamps on hard drives in his Ottawa home. Some of the photos were panoramic shots of the victims' bedrooms.

He kept the underwear in bags and boxes in his home and would sometimes burn them if he ran out of space.

Prosecutors also said Williams videotaped the assaults and murders.

Authorities said Williams came to the attention of investigators during a police roadblock a few days after Lloyd was reported missing. Tire tracks from his vehicle matched the ones they were looking for.

"He's just a very twisted individual. There's no two ways about it," retired Lt. Gen. Angus Watt, who once promoted Williams, said earlier this year. He was able to lead an elaborate double life and was able to keep it successfully concealed. This was the act of a depraved individual and really has no reflection on the men and women of the Canadian Forces." Williams, a 23-year military veteran, has never been in combat but has been stationed across Canada and internationally, including a stint in 2006 as commanding officer of Camp Mirage, the secretive Canadian Forces base widely reported to be near Dubai.

He was photographed in January with Canada's defense chief and its top general during an inspection of a Canadian aircraft on its way to support relief efforts in earthquake-stricken Haiti. Williams killed his second victim just over a week later. □

Haiti official: 12 killed in floods, landslides

JONATHAN M. KATZ,
Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Steady rains toppled hillsides and turned streets into rivers in the Haitian capital over the weekend, leaving at least 12 people dead and three missing, civil protection officials said Monday.

Storms falling on the mountains that ring the capital sent cascades into the pitch-black downtown, where trucks left boat-like wakes as they forded boulevards.

Eight people were killed when water rushed over a sand quarry on the capital's western edge, sending a sheet of slurry roaring through their quake-damaged homes below,

said Nadine Lochard, civil protection coordinator for the department that includes Port-au-Prince.

Such quarries, used for cheap concrete to build homes in Port-au-Prince's ever-expanding slums, scar Haiti's deforested hillsides. Many of the homes destroyed in the mudslide were made of the brittle, sand-based concrete from similar quarries.

Concrete made from the hillside sand was made illegal by Haiti's government after thousands of homes made of the material fell in the Jan. 12 earthquake, but it is still used. Lochard said the bodies of two children — an 11-month-old and a 2-year-old — were

found drowned elsewhere in the capital.

Two more people were killed when mud slid into an quake-refuge camp in Carrefour, farther along the same western ridge. An AP Television News journalist who reached the camp Monday said dozens of families were repairing their tarps. The rocky dirt under other post-quake settlements, home to an estimated 1.3 million people, turned into spongy mud and then lakes. Lochard had no information about the three people reported as missing.

Residents along the ridge said there had been other fatal, unreported mudslides in the last week. Aid groups



A girl stands next to her tent after it fell down due to heavy rain at a camp for earthquake survivors in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010. A storm blasted through Haiti's capital on Friday, killing at least five people as it tore down trees, billboards and tent homes, authorities said.

Associated Press

and officials overseeing Haiti's post-earthquake reconstruction have been on guard for heavy rains since the

Jan. 12 disaster. Canals were cleared and drainage ditches dug around some of the better-managed camps. □

Chilean leader to give rock from mine to queen

LONDON (AP) — Chilean President Sebastian Pinera on Monday gave Britain's queen and prime minister each a rock taken from the bottom of the collapsed San Jose mine — a symbol of his effort to turn the disaster-turned-success story into an international image makeover.

The rescue of 33 men from the stricken mine, where they'd been trapped for more than two months, united Chileans and elicited a wave of sympathy around the world. Pinera's European tour, which began over the weekend in London, may help brighten the image of a country many here still associate with the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

Pinera told reporters that economic relations, clean energy and education were among the topics he discussed with Prime Minister David Cameron. He also highlighted how Chile has changed and acquired more international respect since the mine collapse.

"Down the mine, but also up

on the surface, the miners are not the same — they have come back to life," he said. "And the Chilean people are not the same. ... I am sure that Chile now is a more united country, a stronger country, one prepared to face the new challenges, defeat poverty and underdevelopment."

Cameron's office said the prime minister gave Pinera 33 bottles of Fuller's London Pride ale — one for each rescued miner — and an early edition of Robinson Crusoe. The Daniel Defoe novel was based on the adventures of a real-life castaway on a Chilean island.

Pinera also met with Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace later Monday and gave her another piece of palm-sized rock from the San Jose mine.

The 69-day saga of the miners drew attention to the progress Chile has made since Pinochet relinquished power in 1990.

Pinochet's brutality — he is blamed for hundreds of disappearances in his campaign to crush opposition



Queen Elizabeth II is presented with a piece of rock from the San Jose Mine given to her by the President of Chile, Sebastian Pinera, centre, who was accompanied by his wife Cecilia Morel Montes, left, during a private meeting at Buckingham Palace in central London, Monday Oct. 18, 2010.

Associated Press

— turned him into a personification of right-wing repression in Latin America. And his detention in London in 1998 on a Spanish arrest warrant kept Chile's troubled history in the eye of the European public.

Media here and elsewhere have

lingered on the implications of the mining rescue for Chile's past. One recent Times of London headline read: "Chile's big heart has buried its history of dictatorship."

Pinera is carrying tokens of the mine rescue on his tour.

One is the rock from the

mine destined for the British monarch. Another went to Cameron. Manchester United, which has invited the freed miners to visit the soccer club, is also getting a memento of the mining drama.

Pinera is visiting France and Germany after London. □

Aqua Grill... "the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers," *Fodor's Travel Guide*

Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond. In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood

can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

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Israel says Hamas has anti-aircraft missiles

ARON HELLER

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Gaza's Hamas rulers have obtained anti-aircraft missiles, Israel's prime minister said Monday, in a potentially game-changing development that could threaten the Israeli air force's ability to strike at the Islamic militant group.

Israeli aircraft have long dominated the skies over Gaza, striking suspected Hamas military installations and assassinating dozens of wanted militants. The Israeli air force played a key role in a fierce three-week offensive in Gaza early last year, which began with airstrikes that killed hundreds of Hamas fighters. The air raids also destroyed vast amounts of infrastructure and killed hundreds of civilians.

Speaking to his Likud Party, Netanyahu disclosed that Israel's aerial freedom has been compromised by the new weaponry, presumably smuggled into Gaza through tunnels connected to neighboring Egypt. He said any future peace agreement would have to include security arrangements to deal with the threat.



In this Friday, Oct. 1, 2010 file photo, Palestinian Hamas militants carry a mock coffin wrapped with an Israeli flag during a rally in the Nusseirat refugee camp, central Gaza Strip. Gaza's Hamas rulers have obtained anti-aircraft missiles, Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday, Oct. 18, 2010, in a potentially game-changing development that could threaten the Israeli air force's ability to strike at the Islamic militant group.

Israel believes that despite its military offensive and Egypt's stated goal of halting arms smuggling, Hamas has managed to restock its arsenal with longer-range missiles that can strike the heart of Israel. Netanyahu's assessment was the first time an Israeli official has openly said Hamas also possesses anti-aircraft weaponry, though intelligence

officials have privately suspected that was the case.

"The security problem is not just the new rockets that will enter the area and will threaten city centers. I don't know if you know this, but today we are struggling to fly near Gaza because they have anti-aircraft missiles there," Netanyahu said.

He warned that the missiles

could also threaten air traffic at Israel's international airport.

"Israel's security needs are real, the solutions have to be real, not on paper. We need to find long-term solutions that give Israel security," he said. Netanyahu gave no evidence to support his claim, and aides would not discuss details about the missiles.

The Israeli military refused

Associated Press

to comment on Netanyahu's remarks.

Security officials said they have long assumed Hamas has smuggled in Russian-made Strela anti-aircraft missiles, presumably supplied by Iran. Some versions of the Strela are shoulder-fired and are designed to target planes, helicopters and drones at ranges of around two and a half miles (four kilometers), according to the military information website GlobalSecurity.org.

Hamas has yet to deploy the weapons, but Israeli pilots fly over Gaza with the assumption that the missiles are there, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity according to military protocol. Hamas refused to say whether it has any anti-aircraft weapons and accused the Israeli leader of spreading propaganda to justify future attacks in Gaza.

"These remarks reflect the intention of the Zionist enemy to commit more crimes and more future aggression against our people, taking advantage of the American support and the Arab silence," said Fawzi Barhoum, a Hamas spokesman in Gaza. □

Super typhoon lashes Philippines, kills at least 3

BULLIT MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writer

CAUAYAN, Philippines (AP) — The strongest cyclone in years to crash into the Philippines killed at least three people Monday, leaving a wasteland of fallen trees and power poles and sending thousands scampering to safety in near-zero visibility. A retired general said bracing for the onslaught was like preparing for war.

Super Typhoon Megi, blowing across the northern Philippines, was forecast next to head toward China and Vietnam, where recent floods unrelated the storm have caused 30 deaths.

On Monday, strong currents on Vietnam's flooded main highway swept away a bus and

20 of its passengers, including a boy pulled from his mother's grasp. In China, authorities evacuated 140,000 people from a coastal province ahead of the typhoon.

Megi packed sustained winds of 140 miles (225 kilometers) per hour and gusts of 162 mph (260 kph) as it made landfall midday Monday at Palanan Bay in Isabela province, felling trees and utility poles and cutting off power, phone and Internet services. Its ferocious wind slightly weakened while crossing the mountains of the Philippines' main northern island of Luzon.

With more than 4,150 Filipinos riding out the typhoon in sturdy school buildings, town halls, churches and relatives' homes, roads in and out of

coastal Isabela province, about 200 miles (320 kilometers) northeast of Manila, were deserted and blocked by collapsed trees, power lines and debris.

One man who had just rescued his water buffalo slipped and fell into a river and drowned in Cagayan province, near Isabela. A woman was pinned to death when a tamarind tree crushed her house and injured her child in Kalinga province, and a security guard died after being struck by a pine tree in nearby Baguio city, officials said.

At least six were injured in the region by falling trees, collapsed roof and shattered glass, officials said.

As it crashed ashore, the typhoon whipped up huge



Motorists drive past a filling station which was toppled by typhoon Megi (local name "Juan") Monday Oct.18, 2010 at Cauayan, Isabela province in northeastern Philippines. The strongest cyclone in years to buffet the Philippines knocked out communications and power as residents took shelter Monday.

Associated Press

waves. There was near-zero visibility and radio reports said the wind was so powerful that people could not take more than a step at a time. Ships and fishing vessels were told to stay in ports, and several domestic and international flights were canceled.

The entire Isabela province lost power along with 16 of Cagayan's 28 towns as the typhoon blew by. Cagayan Governor Alvaro Antonio said the wind was fierce but blew high from the ground, sparing many ricefields ready for harvesting. □

Mexican authorities seize 105 tons of marijuana

MARIANA MARTINEZ

Associated Press Writer

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Mexican security forces seized 105 tons of U.S.-bound marijuana in the border city of Tijuana on Monday, by far the biggest drug bust in the country in recent years.

Soldiers and police grabbed the drugs in pre-dawn raids in three neighborhoods after police arrested 11 people following a shootout, army Gen. Alfonso Duarte Mujica said at a news conference.

The marijuana was found wrapped in 10,000 packages, which were displayed to journalists by soldiers in masks. Duarte said the drug had an estimated street value in Mexico of 4.2 billion pesos, about \$340 million.

The bust began when Tijuana municipal police on a routine patrol came under gunfire from a convoy of vehicles. One police officer and one suspect were injured.

Police arrested 11 people who were traveling in the convoy and called the army and state police for reinforcement, Duarte said.

The detainees led the security forces to three different Tijuana neighborhoods where the drugs were found in tractor trailers and houses.

Duarte said local criminal gangs were receiving the drugs to smuggle into the United States. He did not identify any of the gangs.

The bust dwarfed marijuana seizures of recent years. This year, there have been several seizures of about a dozen tons of marijuana in Tijuana, which is across the border from San Diego, California. □



Seized narcotics burn on the outskirts of Tijuana, Mexico, Wednesday Sept. 22, 2010. According to the attorney general office, about 6.5 tons of marijuana, cocaine, heroin and pills seized by the army and police in different operations were destroyed.

Associated Press

Children under 10 eat for free off the Kid's Menu

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Fishes & More specialize in fresh fish and seafood, and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to our dishes. Influences from all over the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for our daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange



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Early bird menu is priced at \$ 21.75
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All Eyes on Aruba For Presidential Caribbean Cup

ORANJESTAD — Sportfishing takes center stage as the Chivas Regal Aruba Caribbean Cup, Presented by the Centro di Pesca Haricurari gets underway later this week. Many international anglers have already begun descending upon this picturesque Caribbean island nation, with some outstanding opportunities for blue marlin as well as sailfish in abundance. This is the first annual event, which is associated with the Presidential Challenge Charitable Foundation as well as other Presidential sportfishing tournaments in Costa Rica and Guatemala. The tournament has a truly international flavor, attracting anglers from across the United States and throughout Central America as well as the Caribbean. The tournament is 100 percent catch and release for all billfish

species (blue and white marlin and sailfish) and also mandates the use of 30-pound test Berkley Big Game fishing line. Non-offset circle hooks, which have been proven to reduce post-release mortality in billfish species, are also required, and impartial observers will be used on each boat in order to ensure a level playing field. For most participants, this will be their first trip to Aruba. Many are also bringing their wives and other family members, for whom the tournament has scheduled many activities during the fishing days, including an island tour and luncheon. Those anglers who have arrived early have been greeted by not only spectacular fishing but also the warmth and hospitality for which the Aruban people are famous. According to tournament



coordinator Joan Vernon, this is an opportunity for Aruba to become well-known as a top sportfishing destination. "It's a great venue for an international

tournament like the Presidential Caribbean Cup," she says, "and many will look forward to returning to Aruba year after year." For more

information on the Chivas Regal Aruba Caribbean Cup or the Presidential Challenge series, please visit www.preschallenge.com. □



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Loyal friends honored at the Divi Village Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Divi Village Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the

Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring was effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority Associate Ricardo Croes at the Divi Village Resort, that they call their home away from home. Philip & Rosemarie were



honored as a Distinguished Visitors for the Island of Aruba after visiting for 12 years.

Pictured ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also Gloria from the Divi Village Resort. □



Would you like to adopt me?

Hi, I am Negrita!

I would like to introduce myself to you. I am one of the donkeys of the Aruba Donkey sanctuary. Five years ago I was born there: a rare occasion, as I am a black donkey. There are not many black donkeys; at the shelter there are only two of us. When I was born, the volunteers of the sanctuary phone the local press and they all passed by to write a story about me; I was also on television. If you think about it, I am world famous on Aruba. Now you also understand my name Negrita.

My mother One Eye was so proud and she loved the attention. And thus we have been living here for a number of years already. I love it here; life is pretty good. I get fed and watered on time and when I get sick the vet

comes in to look at me. So we are quite expensive donkeys, all of us.

The volunteers try and undertake all kinds of activities and actions to generate money and they sell great donkey stuff at the store. Sometimes very kind people adopt one of the donkeys to support the sanctuary.

And that is also why I am trying to find people who want to adopt me. I will still stay at the Donkey Sanctuary, but you just need to pay thirty florins per month for my upkeep. You help the sanctuary this way and me as well. You will receive a nice document and a fantastic tee-shirt. Can you call the sanctuary please? The number is 593-2933.

You can also become a sponsor via our website www.arubandonkey.org. Please help. □





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Here's an opportunity to sample **Havana's** great forbidden cooking at a special price of only **\$3,50** per dish... **Appetizer Heaven!**

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Garufa Offered a Black & White Bar at Flora Market

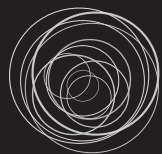


ORANJESTAD – Flora Market hosted its annual seasonal party this past weekend, debuting the Christmas décor themes and colors with dozens of guests admiring the always-fantastic, contemporary display of decorations, over a Black & White bar offered by Garufa Ultra Lounge.

The friendly bar crew delivered champagne and Black & White shots, combined with butler-passed hors d'oeuvres catered by El Gaucho Argentine Grill. Manager David Garcia reports that Garufa Ultra Lounge is ready to host year-end private office parties offering great package deals for open bar services, including hors d'oeuvres catered by El Gaucho Argentine Grill, and live band entertainment or DJ entertainment, for a minimum of 50 people. Call tel.: 592 4741 for information and reservations.

Pictured here the Black & White bar at Flora Market. Garufa Cigar & Cocktail Lounge, is located on Wilhelminastraat 63, across from El Gaucho Argentine Grill





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Loyal friends honored at the Renaissance Ocean Suites



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Renaissance Ocean Suites vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Renaissance Ocean Suites, they call their home away from home. Don & Joan Padden were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for 24 years. Mrs. Barbara Kearney from Litchfield was also honored as a Distinguished Visitor.

Pictured: ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with honorees at The Renaissance Ocean Suites. □



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Big Band Swing Design a success at Renaissance Marketplace



ORANJESTAD – Big Band Swing Design, the popular Dutch band, founded in Maastricht in 1983 has become well-known for their unique presentations of a wide array of music genres, whether in the U.S.A., Europe or in the Caribbean, like on Aruba. The band of more than 20 professional

musicians enchanted the audiences for a few days at different presentations such as the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival. Big Band Swing Design is a true crowd pleaser that adapts its repertoire to the occasion, location and audience. Renaissance Marketplace with pleasure welcomed Big Band Swing

Design last Monday.

After their successful tour on the island they ended with a formidable performance at the Renaissance Marketplace. Their presentation attracted many visitors, locals and tourists.

The repertoire of the band presented at the Marketplace was varied, but tailored to the rhythm and cheerfulness of the Caribbean and accompanied by a fabulous show as “grand finale”.

The pleased, enthusiastic audience enjoyed an evening concert in the customary great ambiance of Renaissance Marketplace with a special treat of great music, while having a delicious meal or cocktails. □



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At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa

Dream beach wedding for Hardik & Palak



PALM BEACH -- The Bhagat and Surti Families, from Chicago, celebrated the nuptials of Hardik and Palak this past weekend at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, surrounded by 250 family members and friends.

The festivities included a luncheon party at the Sunset Grill Restaurant, a tropical Henna Night, a Penthouse Reception, a traditional ceremonial wedding right on the beach at the edge of the water and a Grand Caribbean Ballroom party to the wee hours.

A few weeks before Christmas last year, Hardik surprised Palak with a weekend getaway in honor of her birthday, in downtown Chicago staying in a lovely penthouse suite of the city's swanky Wit Hotel. He wine and dined his sweetheart all weekend long and on Sunday took her shopping at Macy's where in one of the department store's famous showcase windows a letter for Santa was displayed where Hardik had written to the jolly old man asking him to make sure Palak says Yes, when he pops the big question, which he immediately did, on his knee,

offering a gorgeous ring, in front of all street spectators. She naturally uttered a tearful Yes!

Pictured here, some images from the fairy-tale weekend on the island of Aruba, and the wedding ceremony which included the exchange of garlands, the sacred wedding knot, circling the holy fire, the seven steps and finally the blessing of the newlyweds. □



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Celebrating love at the Divi Pheonix Resort

Christen & Chad say "I Do" at sunset



PALM BEACH – Christen & Chad flew down to Aruba from the USA with friends, leaving family behind. Rev. Robert Gibson officiated the ceremony on the waters edge just as the sun gently set into the Caribbean Sea. After the ceremony, they toasted their union with a Champagne kiss and cake cutting ceremony.

Christen & Chad posed for a few romantic photos before enjoying an intimate dinner for eight at the Sunset Bistro Restaurant with their toes in the sand.

Congratulations from Aruba Fairy Tales and Aruba Today. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~

Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a serie of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Special of the month

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

Driftwood Restaurant

Klipstraat 12, Oranjestad

Reservations: **583 2515**

Email: info@driftwoodaruba.com

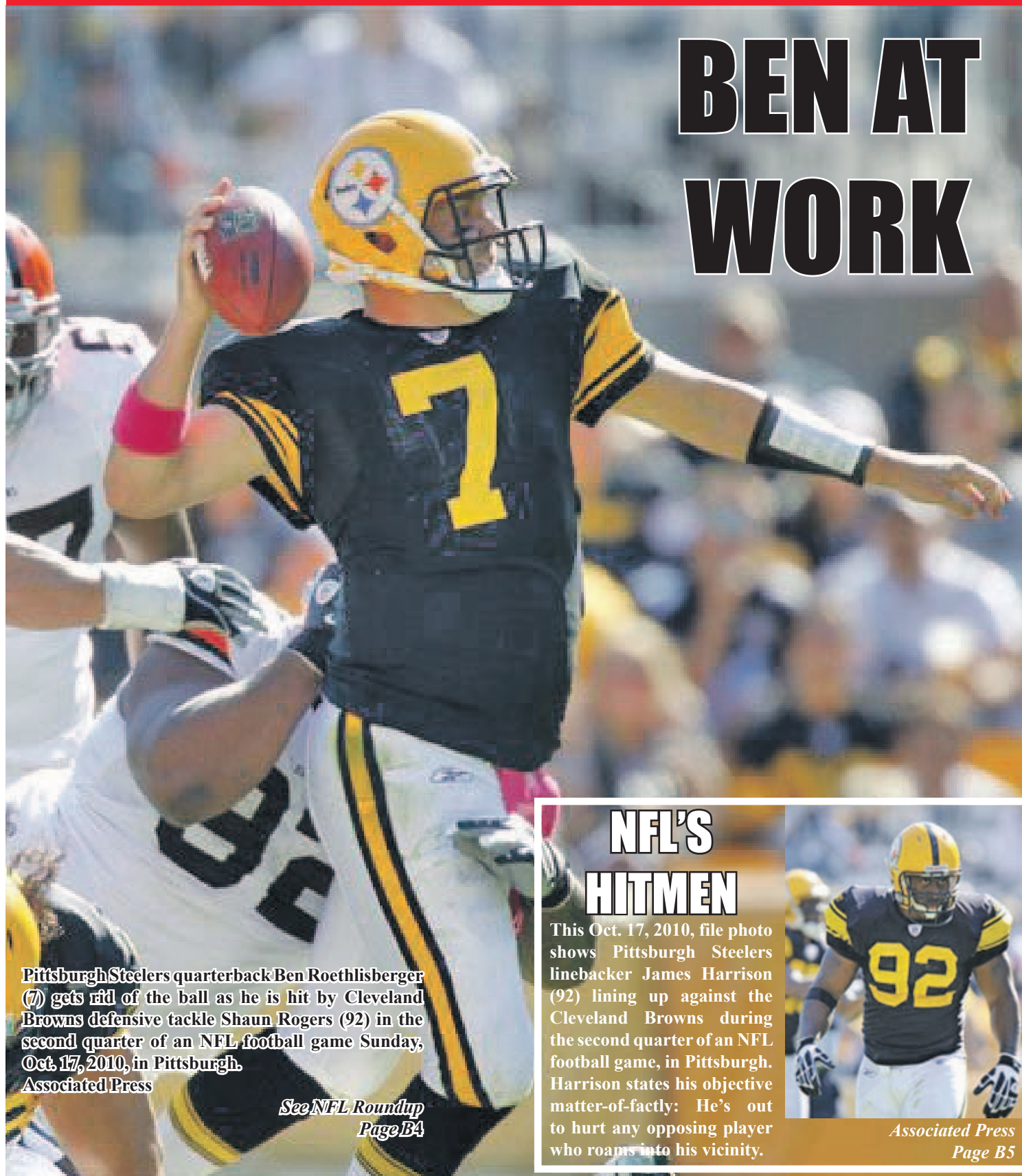
Website: www.driftwoodaruba.com



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per person



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) gets rid of the ball as he is hit by Cleveland Browns defensive tackle Shaun Rogers (92) in the second quarter of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010, in Pittsburgh. Associated Press

See NFL Roundup
Page B4

BEN AT WORK

NFL'S HITMEN

This Oct. 17, 2010, file photo shows Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison (92) lining up against the Cleveland Browns during the second quarter of an NFL football game, in Pittsburgh. Harrison states his objective matter-of-factly: He's out to hurt any opposing player who roams into his vicinity.



Associated Press
Page B5



Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Roy Oswalt reacts after giving up a home run to San Francisco Giants' Cody Ross during the fifth inning of Game 2 of baseball's National League Championship Series Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Oswalt, Rollins help Phillies even NLCS at 1-1

ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — This Roy was an ace, and he sparked a big inning with a daring dash around the bases.

Roy Oswalt pitched eight dominant innings, Jimmy Rollins drove in four runs and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the San Francisco Giants 6-1 Sunday night to even the NL championship series at one game apiece.

A day after Tim Lincecum outdueled Roy Halladay in a marquee matchup of aces, Oswalt beat Jonathan Sanchez.

The series shifts to San Francisco for Game 3 on Tuesday afternoon. Matt Cain faces Philadelphia's Cole Hamels, the 2008 World Series MVP.

Even though he didn't finish the outing, it sure was a complete game for Oswalt. He allowed one run and three hits, striking out nine. He also singled and scored a run after racing through a coach's stop sign in the seventh.

Continued on Page B3

Oklahoma, Oregon ahead of Boise St in BCS

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

The first BCS standings are out and Boise State is already chasing a couple of teams from the power conferences. Oklahoma was first and Oregon was second Sunday, with Boise State in third place and in need of plenty of help to become the first team from a conference without an automatic Bowl Championship Series bid to play for the

BCS title.

Jerry Palm, who analyzes the BCS standings at collegebcs.com, said despite a better early season showing in the polls than ever before, Boise State is a long shot to play for the national championship.

"They just need too much to happen to get excited about their chances," Palm said. With 10 undefeated teams in major college football, there's serious potential

for BCS controversy this season, even beyond whether Boise State from the Western Athletic Conference or maybe a Mountain West Conference team such as TCU or Utah gets a chance to play in the biggest BCS game.

The Sooners from the Big 12 and Ducks from the Pac-10 begin this race from the front row, but they can't quite say they're in control of it.

Continued on Next Page

BCS

Continued from Page B1

Only once in 12 seasons of the BCS have the teams that were at the top of the first standings played in the championship game. That was 2005 with Southern California and Texas. "We're going up to play a 6-0 team at Missouri, and they're not handing anything out right now," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said. "It means absolutely nothing." With the possibility of undefeated champions coming out of the Southeastern Conference and Big Ten, Stoops is probably right. Auburn is fourth in the BCS standings, followed by TCU and LSU. Michigan State from the Big Ten is seventh. None of those teams have lost yet. Alabama is eighth and unbeaten Utah is ninth. LSU and Auburn play Saturday. "I would be shocked if the winner didn't jump Boise next week in the polls," Palm said. And if the winner jumps the Broncos in the polls, it's a lock to jump them in the BCS standings. In fact, if one of the SEC's

Tigers goes 13-0, it wouldn't be the least bit surprising to see that team in the BCS title game no matter what Oklahoma and Oregon do. The Sooners took first place by grading out No. 1 in the computer ratings. Oklahoma, coming off a 52-0 victory against Iowa State, is No. 3 in the USA Today coaches' poll and No. 4 in the Harris poll. Oregon is No. 1 in all the polls, including the AP Top 25 which is not used in the BCS calculations, but rated eighth in the computer rankings. Boise State is No. 2 in all the polls and seventh according to the computers, but the math leaves the Broncos third in the BCS standings. "The computers do not like this team," Palm said. The poll voters like Boise State better than they ever have, but still not enough. The problem, as always for Boise State, is the strength of schedule. Early nonconference victories against Virginia Tech and Oregon State help the Broncos. The WAC schedule mostly drags them down. On Saturday, Boise State



Oklahoma mascot Boomer entertains fans in the first quarter of an NCAA college football game against Iowa State in Norman, Okla., Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010. Oklahoma won 52-0.

Associated Press

beat San Jose State 48-0 and Palm said the victory actually pulled the Broncos' computer rating down.

Because Boise State will almost always rate behind the other undefeated teams in the computers, the Broncos would

need to be an overwhelming No. 1 in both polls to have a shot at the national title game when the final BCS standings come out Dec. 5, Palm said. Even if Boise State finishes the season as the only undefeated team, Palm is skeptical of its chances to reach the title game.

"I look at it as Boise has to be almost the only choice," Palm said. "It would take a unique year for Boise to be a unanimous No 1 in the polls." Oklahoma, which has quality victories against Florida State, Air Force and Texas, has a chance to bolster its resume Saturday against Missouri, 11th in the standings. Down the road the Sooners play at Oklahoma State, 14th in the standings.

Oregon faces UCLA on Thursday night at home, then visits USC, which is not included in the BCS standings because the Trojans are on probation. The Ducks finish the season against Arizona (18th) and Oregon State.

The toughest opponents left on Boise State's schedule are Nevada and Hawaii. □



Tiger Woods smiles as he answers questions for local journalist after speaking at Cesar Chavez Charter High School in Washington, Friday, Oct. 8, 2010. Tiger Woods' charitable foundation opened a campus for the Tiger Woods Learning Center at the charter school, following through on a pledge to make Washington the East Coast base for Woods' philanthropic efforts.

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP) — Tiger Woods says he never learned more in a year in which he never won less. Woods said Monday he is more at peace with his personal life than when he returned to golf in April, and he remains hopeful that his season will not end without a victory. "I learned a lot about myself, and I learned how things went wrong, why they went

wrong, and had to take a pretty deep and introspective look at myself. And there wasn't a lot of things I like about it," Woods said in a video conference call for his Chevron World Challenge. "But I had to do it, and I did it, and grateful that I did. "I think that I come from a much better place, much more grounded place now than I ever have before." The Chevron World Challenge, to be played

Woods getting used to a new life

Dec. 3-6 at Sherwood Country Club, will be his final tournament of the year. Woods next plays Nov. 4 in Shanghai at the HSBC Champions, his last chance to win an official PGA Tour event. Then he's off to Melbourne to defend his title in the Australian Masters before closing out the year at Sherwood.

Woods is a four-time winner of his tournament, although he hasn't played the last two years. He was recovering from knee surgery in 2008, and he missed last year because it was one week after the car accident that exposed his extramarital affairs and shattered his image as sports' most impeccable star.

Woods took four months off from golf to go through rehab, returning at the Masters. He tied for fourth at Augusta National, and he tied for fourth at the U.S. Open. Those were his two best results of the year, however, as he failed to win a

tournament and did not even reach the FedEx Cup finale at the Tour Championship.

He was divorced on Aug. 23 from Elin Nordegren. Woods said his two children are getting adjusted to their new living conditions.

"I think everyone's certainly more at peace, and so am I," Woods said.

His tournament has one of its best fields, with defending champion Jim Furyk and Woods joining a dozen other Ryder Cup players. The list includes three major champions — all but Masters champ Phil Mickelson — along with newcomers Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson. The two sponsor exemptions were awarded to Camilo Villegas and Stewart Cink.

In his last performance, Woods was 9 under through 15 holes when he beat Francesco Molinari in singles, playing the final seven holes in 7-under-par. Europe still won the Ryder Cup, although Woods had his

best week in the event, going 3-1.

"My game is coming around," Woods said. "so the way I played at the Ryder Cup ... I know I have two more events prior to the Chevron event. Hopefully, I can get two more Ws before I get to Chevron, and see what happens."

Along with his personal strife, Woods went through three teachers this year — Hank Haney and Sean Foley, with Woods as his own instructor for a three-month stretch in between.

He said he is still taking in the concepts of Foley, a Canadian-born swing coach based in Orlando, Florida, but that the changes are coming together quicker than previous times when he revamped his game.

"I don't have it all dialed in yet," Woods said. "But I figured if I could play the way I did in the singles match, which I hadn't done that all year, that's a positive sign." □

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NLCS

Continued from Page B1

"I didn't see it until I got halfway down the line," Oswalt said of the sign. "I was hoping I would be able to get in there."

Cody Ross hit his third solo homer in two games for the Giants.

Rollins busted out of a 1 for 15 postseason slump, going 2 for 3 with a bases-loaded walk and a bases-clearing double.

Halladay followed up his no-hitter against the Reds in the division series with a subpar performance. He gave up four runs in seven innings.

"I knew it was just a matter of time," Rollins said.

Sanchez gave up three runs — two earned — and five hits in six-plus innings. The tough lefty had dominated the Phillies in his five previous starts against them, not allowing more than four hits in any outing.

Oswalt chased Sanchez with a line-drive single leading off the bottom of the seventh. He advanced to second on Shane Victorino's sacrifice off Ramon Ramirez. After Chase Utley was intentionally walked, Placido Polanco lined a single to center. Oswalt ran through third-base coach Sam Perlozzo's stop sign and slid safely ahead of the relay throw to give the Phillies a 3-1 lead.

"That was comical," Rollins said. "Roy's got those stiff hips and he looked like he was cardboard running down the line but he got it done tonight."

Jeremy Affeldt came in and struck out Ryan Howard after a double steal. Jayson Werth was intentionally walked before Santiago

Casilla entered to face Rollins. The former NL MVP, dropped from leadoff to sixth in the batting order since the playoffs started, hit a drive off the right-center field fence to put the Phillies up 6-1.

An appreciative crowd chanted "J-Roll! J-Roll!" with a smiling Rollins standing on second.

Oswalt didn't allow a hit until Ross connected with one out in the fifth to tie it at 1. He ripped a 1-0 pitch into the left-center field seats — nearly the same spot both of his homers off Halladay landed.

But the Phillies played small-ball — a rarity for this lineup filled with inconsistent sluggers — to take a 2-1 lead in the bottom half.

Victorino, one of the few Phillies with success off Sanchez, lined a double down the left-field line. He advanced to third on Utley's fly out to right and scored on Polanco's sacrifice fly to center, which drew a loud ovation.

The Phillies took advantage of Sanchez's wildness and scored an unearned run without getting a hit in the first.

Utley, flip-flopped with Polanco in the batting order, drew a one-out walk. Utley stole second and advanced to third when Polanco reached

on third baseman Mike Fontenot's throwing error. Howard worked a walk after falling behind 1-2 in the count.

Sanchez then caught Werth looking at a slider for the second out. But Rollins walked to force in a run. Raul Ibanez fanned to end the inning.

Rollins got his second hit of the playoffs in the fourth when Fontenot let his popup land untouched near the mound. He was on second with two outs when plate umpire Dan Iassogna called a 1-2 pitch to Oswalt a ball. Oswalt took a step toward the dugout, thinking it was a strike. Sanchez walked off the mound, thinking the inning was over. Oswalt ended up flying out.

There have already been a few questionable calls by the plate ump in the first two games. In the opener, Derryl Cousins rung up Rollins on strike two.

Acquired from Houston on July 29, Oswalt went 7-1 with a 1.74 ERA in 13 games with the Phillies. Oswalt — not Halladay or Hamels — was Philadelphia's best pitcher down the stretch. The three-time All-Star was 7-0 with a 1.17 ERA in his last 10 starts.

Oswalt struggled against Cincinnati in Game 2 of the division series. He gave up



Philadelphia Phillies' Jimmy Rollins hits a three-run scoring double during the seventh inning of Game 2 of baseball's National League Championship Series against the San Francisco Giants Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

three earned runs in five innings in a 7-4 win.

Oswalt improved to 5-0 with a 3.47 ERA in nine postseason games. He was the NLCS MVP with Houston in 2005.

For the third straight postseason, the city hosted a day-night football-baseball doubleheader with the Eagles playing early. The sports complex had a Christmas feel as fans wore their green and red to support both teams.

Just like the last two years, the Eagles did their part. They beat Atlanta 31-17. In '08, it was a city sweep with

the Phillies beating Tampa Bay in Game 4 of the World Series in the nightcap after an Eagles' win over the Falcons. Last year, after the Eagles beat the New York Giants, the Phillies lost to the New York Yankees in Game 4 of the World Series. The crowd of 46,099 — the 135th straight sellout at Citizens Bank Park — was revved up right from the start, waving their "Fightin' Phils" rally towels and chanting "Let's Go Phillies." They cheered loudly when Oswalt brushed back Ross with a high-and-tight fastball in the second. □

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NFL Roundup

Roethlisberger throws 3 TDs, Steelers win 28-10

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ben Roethlisberger, cheered loudly during his first game in 9 1/2 months, shook off the rust from his four-game suspension to throw three touchdown passes as the Pittsburgh Steelers shut down a depleted Cleveland Browns offense during a 28-10 victory Sunday.

With the Steelers (4-1) leading 7-3 but backed up to their own 4 late into the third quarter, Roethlisberger — flashing the big-play ability his team lacked without him — completed passes of 50 yards to Mike Wallace and 36 yards to Heath Miller on successive plays.

Three plays later, Hines Ward fought through two potential tacklers on an 8-yard touchdown catch that made it 14-3 and gave the Steelers' defense all the points needed on a mostly dominating day. The Browns (1-5) never advanced inside the 20 until rookie Colt McCoy's late 12-yard scoring pass to Ben Watson with Pittsburgh already up by 18 points. The Browns fell to 1-5.

Browns wide receivers Joshua Cribbs and Mohamed Massaquoi were knocked out of the game in the second quarter after taking hard hits from linebacker James Harrison.

Eagles 31, Falcons 17

At Philadelphia, Jeremy Maclin and DeSean Jackson each scored two touchdowns as Philadelphia snapped Atlanta's four-game winning streak.

A head-on collision in the second quarter cost Philadelphia star receiver Jackson, and Atlanta lost cornerback Dunta Robinson, both with head injuries. Jackson dropped a pass when hit by Robinson, who led with his head and hit Jackson in the helmet. Robinson was flagged for hitting a defenseless receiver.

Patriots 23, Ravens 20, OT

At Foxborough, Massachusetts, Stephen Gostkowski's 35-yard field



Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Hines Ward leaps into the end zone between Cleveland Browns defenders Abram Elam (26) and Sheldon Brown (24) for a touchdown during the third quarter of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010. The Steelers won 28-10.

goal with 1:56 left in overtime gave New England a come-from-behind win.

Deion Branch, acquired five days after Randy Moss was traded to Minnesota on Oct. 6, sparked the comeback from a 20-10 deficit starting with a 5-yard scoring pass from Tom Brady four minutes into the fourth quarter. The Patriots then forced the Ravens to punt and marched from their 14 to a third down at the Baltimore 3 and settled for Gostkowski's 24-yard tying field goal.

Jets 24, Broncos 20

At Denver, LaDainian Tomlinson scored his second touchdown from 2 yards out with 73 seconds left after a pass interference flag and New York rallied past Denver. On fourth-and-6 from the Denver 48, Denver safety Renaldo Hill and Jets receiver Santonio Holmes jostled near the goal line and the ball fell incomplete as the crowd went crazy.

But field judge Gary Cavaletto threw his yellow flag and called Hill for pass interference.

Vikings 24, Cowboys 21

At Minneapolis, Percy Harvin's 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown gave

Minnesota a spark to start the second half, as the Vikings overcame another uneven game by Brett Favre in a victory over Dallas.

Playing with a bad elbow and the specter of a scandal hovering over him, Favre — who is to meet with NFL security Tuesday about the alleged racy messages he sent to a former New York Jets employee — finished 14 for 19 for 118 yards, one TD and one turnover.

Giants 28, Lions 20

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Eli Manning threw two touchdown passes and the Giants sent error-prone Detroit to an NFL record-tying 24th straight road loss.

Safety Deon Grant preserved the third straight win for the Giants (4-2) by forcing and recovering a fumble by Lions' receiver Nate Burleson at the Giants 42 with about five minutes to go and New York ahead by four points.

Rams 20, Chargers 17

At St. Louis, James Hall, Chris Long and Larry Grant had two sacks each as St. Louis shut down the NFL's top offense for its third straight win at home.

Sam Bradford threw a 38-yard

touchdown pass to fellow rookie Danario Alexander, making his NFL debut, to help build a 14-point cushion in the first half. Steven Jackson, who finished with 109 yards, also scored and had several key late carries for the Rams (3-3). Texans 35, Chiefs 31

At Houston, Matt Schaub threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Andre Johnson with 28 seconds left to give Houston a stunning fourth-quarter comeback victory.

The Texans (4-2) trailed 31-21 with just over 7 minutes left after Thomas Jones' 11-yard TD run. Schaub threw two long passes to Owen Daniels before Arian Foster scored with 3:30 left to cut the Chiefs' lead to 3.

Matt Cassel threw three TD passes for Kansas City (3-2). Saints 31, Buccaneers 6

At Tampa, Florida, Drew Brees threw for 263 yards and three touchdowns as New Orleans downed Tampa Bay.

The Super Bowl champions rebounded from a mistake-filled road loss, scoring on their first three possessions and getting an unexpected lift from rookie running back Chris Ivory.

Dolphins 23, Packers 20 OT

At Green Bay, Wisconsin, Dan Carpenter kicked a 44-yard field goal with 9:01 left in overtime to lift Miami past Green Bay.

It was the second straight overtime loss for the injury-riddled Packers (3-3), who lost at Washington last week.

Seahawks 23, Bears 20

At Chicago, Matt Hasselbeck threw for a season-best 242 yards and a touchdown and Seattle's defense sacked Jay Cutler six times in a win over Chicago.

Cutler was in trouble much of the game, and completed just 17 of 39 for 290 yards. He missed last week's game with a concussion after being sacked nine times by the Giants the previous week.

49ers 17, Raiders 9

At San Francisco, Alex Smith threw second-half touchdown passes to Michael Crabtree and Vernon Davis as San Francisco finally won its first game, beating Oakland.

Crabtree made a go-ahead 32-yard TD reception on the last play of the third quarter and Smith hit Davis on a 17-yard score with 7:14 remaining.

Colts 27, Redskins 24

At Landover, Maryland, Peyton Manning threw for 307 yards and two touchdowns to lead Indianapolis over Washington.

Manning completed 25 of 38 passes, with scoring throws of 57 yards to Pierre Garcon and 5 yards to Austin Collie.

Joseph Addai ran for 128 yards and a touchdown for the Colts before leaving with a shoulder injury.

In other NFL games it was Seattle 23, Chicago 20; Miami 23, Green Bay 20, OT; Houston 35, Kansas City 31; Pittsburgh 28, Cleveland 10; St. Louis 20, San Diego 17; N.Y. Giants 28, Detroit 20; New England 23, Baltimore 20, OT; Philadelphia 31, Atlanta 17; New Orleans 31, Tampa Bay 6; N.Y. Jets 24, Denver 20; San Francisco 17, Oakland 9; Minnesota 24, Dallas 21; and Indianapolis 27, Washington 24. □

NFL may start suspending players for violent hits

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK – Aiming for the head or leading with the helmet to deliver a blow could soon cost NFL players game time as well as money.

The league is considering suspending players for illegal hits in an effort to help prevent serious injuries, NFL executive vice president of football operations Ray Anderson told The Associated Press on Monday, one day after several scary collisions in games.

“There’s strong testimonial for looking readily at evaluating discipline, especially in the areas of egregious and elevated dangerous hits,” he said in a phone interview. “Going forward there are certain hits that occurred that will be more susceptible to suspension. There are some that could bring suspensions for what are flagrant and egregious situations.”

Anderson, a member of the league’s competition committee and one of its loudest voices on the need for enhanced player safety, said the NFL could make changes in its approach immediately, with Commissioner Roger Goodell having the final say. League officials will consult with the players’ union, but he didn’t expect any opposition.

“Obviously suspensions would be a much bigger deal than fining guys,” said Colts center Jeff Saturday, the team’s player representative. “But if guys are headhunting out there to knock a guy out of the game, that’s the only way to take care of it.” There have been occasional suspensions in recent years, including safety Roy Williams, then with Dallas, for one game in 2007 for three horse-collar tackles during that season. Tampa Bay cornerback Elbert Mack and New York Jets safety Eric Smith each drew one-game suspensions for “flagrant violations of player safety rules” by launching themselves into an opponent helmet-first. Last season, Carolina defensive back Dante Wesley drew one game for launching himself into a punt returner who had not caught the ball and was in a defenseless position. On Sunday, the Eagles’ DeSean

Jackson and the Falcons’ Dunta Robinson were knocked out of their game after a frightening collision in which Robinson launched himself head first. Both sustained concussions.

Ravens tight end Todd Heap took a vicious hit from Patriots safety Brandon Meriweather that Heap called “one of those hits that shouldn’t happen.” Steelers linebacker James Harrison sidelined two Browns players with head injuries after jarring hits.

An NFL spokesman said one of the tackles, on Joshua Cribbs, was legal. The Browns were most upset about Harrison’s hit on Mohamed Massaquoi, which the league is reviewing. Harrison defended those hits after the game.

“If I get fined for that, it’s going to be a travesty,” Harrison said. “They didn’t call (a penalty) on that. There’s no way I could be fined for that. It was a good, clean legit hit. ... I didn’t hit that hard, to be honest with you. When you get a guy on the ground, it’s a perfect tackle.”

Anderson wouldn’t speculate on how many players would be punished for hits from Sunday’s games. Players also can be ejected from games for illegal hits, but that’s rare. Of course, that could change in light of what some are calling an epidemic of flagrant fouls. The league is worried not just about defenders turning themselves into human missiles, but also with aiming for the head with the forearm, shoulder or any other body part.

“The fundamentally old way of wrapping up and tackling seems to have faded away,” Anderson said. “A lot of the increase is from hits to blow guys up. That has become a more popular way of doing it. Yes, we are concerned they are getting away from the fundamentals of tackling, and maybe it has been coached that way. We’re going to have to look into talking to our coaches.”

Eagles coach Andy Reid saw close-up the Jackson-Robinson collision.

“That was a tough one there from both sides,” Reid said Monday. “The league has put a lot of emphasis on removing the helmet out of the contact point, in particular around the



Atlanta Falcons corner back Dunta Robinson, right, and Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver DeSean Jackson, left, are helped after a hit during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010, in Philadelphia.

chin or neck area. But some of these are bang-bang. That was a bang-bang deal right there. That wasn’t something this kid had planned. He wasn’t going to go in there and knock himself out. That’s not what he was trying to do here.

“But in a case like that, the more the head is out of the picture, in particular out of the neck area, that’s something the league is striving to work on.” Retired safety Rodney Harrison, now an analyst for NBC, was fined more than \$200,000 during his career and was suspended for one game in 2002 for a helmet-to-helmet hit.

“You didn’t get my attention when you fined me 5 grand, 10 grand, 15 grand,” he said during the pregame broadcast for “Sunday Night Football.” “You got my attention when I got suspended and I had to get away from my teammates and I disappointed my teammates from not being there. But you have to suspend these guys. These guys are making millions of dollars.”

Anderson called “sobering” the remarks of Harrison and Tony Dungy during that broadcast. “When someone as respected as Tony Dungy and a player

respected for his play and known for his hitting prowess such as Rodney Harrison say that, in fact, fines do not have a deterrent effect and that suspensions might, it is sobering,” he said.

Jets safety Jim Leonhard was flagged 15 yards for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Brandon Lloyd in a 24-20 win over the Broncos. Denver coach Josh McDaniels called it an example of how hits often look vicious on TV, but aren’t really what they appear.

“I don’t think there’s anybody that’s out there coaching

helmet-to-helmet hits,” McDaniels said. “I sure know we’re not and I don’t believe in my heart that there’s anybody out there trying to hurt other players. I think a lot is made of we should punish, we should punish, we should punish. And (I say) tell the player what to do differently in some of those situations.

“Because I think there’s certain ones you can see and say, ‘That was probably avoidable.’” Dolphins safety Jeremiah Bell wonders if the NFL is getting “too strict” about tackles involving the helmet. □

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Rocco Mediate putts on the 18th green during the final round of the Frys.com Open golf tournament Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010, in San Martin, Calif. Mediate won by one stroke over Bo Van Pelt and Alex Prugh.

Associated Press

One last eagle gives Mediate the victory

SAN MARTIN, California (AP) — Rocco Mediate holed out for eagle for the fourth straight day, hitting a pitching wedge from 116 yards that spun back into the cup on the par-4 17th Sunday en route to a one-stroke victory over Bo Van Pelt and Alex Prugh in the Frys.com Open.

“Do you believe what just happened out there?” Mediate said. “I have a job again.” The 47-year-old Mediate won his sixth PGA Tour title and first since 2002, finishing with a 2-over 73 for a 15-under 269 total on the CordeValle course. He earned \$900,000 and a two-year tour exemption.

Mediate had a hole-in-one on the par-3 third hole Thursday, holed out from 160 yards Friday on the par-4 fourth, and holed out from 111 yards Saturday on the par-5 15th hole.

Prugh shot a 69, and Van Pelt closed with a 71.

U.S. Ryder Cup player Rickie Fowler birdied three of his final five holes for a 69 to finish fourth at 13 under. Chris Tidland (67) was fifth at 12 under in the Fall Series event.

“I was walking down the stairs and I heard the roar,” Fowler said. “I couldn’t see the green but I could tell who the roar was for. It was pretty loud.”

Prugh and Van Pelt each birdied the final hole, giving Mediate exactly what he wanted on his final shot — a 4- or 5-foot putt that mattered.

As Mediate and caddie Matthew Achatz looked at the shot, they both saw it the same way.

“He said, ‘It’s dead straight, knock it in,’”

Mediate said. “I nodded and said, ‘OK.’”

Mediate said he never saw the ball go into the hole. He turned, flipped his putter and embraced Achatz before shaking hands with Prugh and Van Pelt.

“I don’t know how to explain it,” Mediate said. “Over the past three weeks everything was coming along and I was putting better. Last week I was pretty solid all four rounds and this week went bonkers.”

Mediate built his lead through three days of warmth and sunshine, allowing his cranky back to stay loose. That all changed Sunday with a steady rain and cold through most of the day as he shot a 5 over through 13 holes, and lost the lead temporarily on the 15th hole.

“The weather was tough on everybody,” he said. “I don’t do well with the cool and damp stuff. It was hard for me to move. My back wasn’t sore but it was stiff. I couldn’t hit it where I was looking.”

The sun poked through as he began play on the 14th hole and his fortunes turned.

“I told Matthew at 12 I was not going to miss any more fairways,” Mediate said. “I made a big putt on 14 just to stay alive.”

Mediate made an 18 1/2-foot birdie putt on the par-3 16th, then regained the lead on the 17th.

Prugh, who had his first top-10 finish since opening the season with top 10s in three of his first four events, came within 2 feet of a hole-in-one on the 17th.

“I had Alex mark his ball because you just never know,” Mediate said. “I was going for it, thinking I wanted a birdie. Then I made a shot Mr. (Lee) Trevino taught me.” □

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matinee: 12.30 - 3.15

late show: 11.30

PG-13

RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE 3D

daily: 7.15 - 9.30

matinee: 12.30 - 2.45

late show: 12.00

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TAKERS

daily: 6.30 - 9.00

matinee: 12.30 - 2.45

late show: 11.30

PG-13

ERNST, BOBBIE - MONTA ROSSA

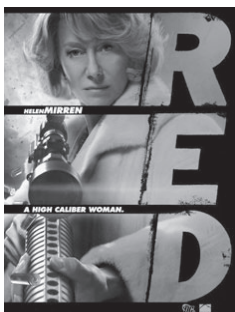
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Perry scores winner, Ducks beat Coyotes 3-2

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Corey Perry deflected Ryan Getzlaf's centering feed past Jason LaBarbera with 5:37 left, in the Anaheim Ducks' 3-2 victory over Phoenix on Sunday.

NHL Roundup Jonas Hiller made 36 saves for Anaheim. Cam Fowler scored his first NHL goal, Toni Lydman also scored, Perry added an assist, and Bobby Ryan had three assists.

The Ducks rebounded from a 5-4 shootout loss to Atlanta on Friday night in which they failed to protect a two-goal lead by surrendering a pair of power-play goals in the third period.

They also had a two-goal edge against the Coyotes, but made things interesting by giving up goals to Scottie Upshall and Eric Belanger in the third.

Canucks 5, Hurricanes 1

At Vancouver, British Columbia, Mason Raymond scored twice and added an assist, and rookie backup Cory Schneider made 32 saves as Vancouver trounced Carolina. Mikael Samuelsson had a goal and two assists, and Andrew Alberts and Ryan Kesler also scored to help the Canucks bounce back after losing games in Anaheim and Los Angeles.

Patrick O'Sullivan scored, and Cam Ward made 23 saves for the road weary Hurricanes, who opened the season in Finland 10 days earlier with two wins over Minnesota. Carolina has since lost in Ottawa and Vancouver, and has games in San Jose, Los Angeles and Phoenix before playing its first home game Oct. 27. □



Anaheim Ducks right wing Corey Perry (10) celebrates his goal with right wing Bobby Ryan in the third period against the Phoenix Coyotes in an NHL hockey game in Anaheim, Calif., Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010. The Ducks won 3-2.

Associated Press



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Spain's Recari wins first LPGA Tour title



Beatriz Recari, of Spain, holds up her trophy on the 18th green after winning the CVS/pharmacy LPGA Challenge golf tournament in Danville, Calif., Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010. Recari won her first LPGA tournament after shooting a two-under-par 70 to finish at total 14-under-par.

Associated Press

Ivanovic beats Schnyder to win Generali Ladies

LINZ, Austria (AP) — Ana Ivanovic routed Patty Schnyder 6-1, 6-2 in the final of the Generali Ladies on Sunday to win her first WTA Tour title in two years and the ninth overall.

The 22-year-old Serb won her last title at the same event in 2008 after taking the French Open title and becoming the top-ranked player for 12 weeks.

“Winning again after two years is so wonderful, just unbelievable,” Ivanovic said. “I have been waiting so long for this and I worked hard to achieve it.”

Ivanovic, now ranked No. 29, played her first final in 19 months. Initially she had not planned to appear at the \$220,000 indoor event but accepted a late wild card after Serena Williams pulled out with a foot injury.

“I felt very well and hit the balls well,” said Ivanovic, who did not drop a set in the tournament. “Patty played well all week so I tried to put her under pressure from the start. That paid off.”

The 47th-ranked Schnyder, who has 11 career titles, was playing her third final in Linz. Schnyder also lost the 2005 and 2007 finals.

“Respect for Ana, there was nothing in it for me,” the Swiss veteran said. “She took the balls so early and placed them so well, there was just no chance to find for my game.”

It was Schnyder’s second final of the season after Budapest in July, where she lost to Agnes Szavay.

“I am disappointed but it still was a great week,” said Schnyder, who defeated former champion Daniela Hantuchova and Andrea

DANVILLE, California (AP) — Spain’s Beatriz Recari won the CVS/pharmacy LPGA Challenge on Sunday for her first LPGA Tour title, overcoming soggy conditions and a late bogey for a one-stroke victory over France’s Gwladys Nocera.

The 23-year-old Recari, a tour rookie who made cuts in only three of her first 13 stroke-play events this season, rebounded from a bogey on the No. 17 with a par on the 18th for a 2-under 70 and a 14-under 274 total on the Blackhawk Country Club course.

Nocera birdied the final hole for a 70.

Michele Redman (76) and Karine Icher (70) tied for

third at 12 under.

“I’m thrilled,” Recari said while clutching a large bouquet of flowers.

“I’m very proud of how I handled myself out there. I did not allow the nerves or (look) any further than what I had to do right in front of me.”

She credited a trip around Homestead Miami Speedway on Oct. 2 in an IndyCar with U.S. racer Mario Andretti for helping her stay calm before the winning putt on 18.

“That was a great experience because I had some much adrenaline, and then I just felt so calm when I was standing on the putt,” Recari said. “That was fun for me ... but this is my job and I still have to keep it fun and focused.”

Cristie Kerr missed a chance to overtake Ai Miyazato for the No. 1 ranking, closing with a 70 to tie for fifth with Wendy Ward (72) at 11 under. Kerr needed to at least share third to take the top spot.

“I figured if I could have another low round, I could manage to do it,” Kerr said. “But the weather conditions were a lot tougher today and I didn’t quite hit it good enough to get it done. Top five, hitting it the way I did this week, I think is a victory.”

The win ended a 14-month world victory drought for Recari, who nearly tripled her career winnings with the \$165,000 first-place prize.

Her last professional win came on the Ladies European Tour at the Finnair Masters in August 2009 when she blew a five-stroke lead on the final day before winning in a playoff. “She did a really great job,” said Redman, who played with Recari in the final group. “She played it smart, she got some good breaks and she hit a lot of really

good putts.”

Recari hadn’t had much success since leaving the LET. That changed when she calmly sank a 2-foot putt on the 18th, then immediately jumped into the arms of her caddie under a steady drizzle of rain.

The weather affected the final round and made it tough to gain ground after the tournament began in 95-degree heat Thursday. The leaders found that out the hard way.

The 45-year-old Redman, seeking her first win since 2000, went into the final round tied with Recari and Ilhee Lee but couldn’t hold on.

After falling a stroke behind when Recardi birdied No. 6, Redman pulled even with a birdie on the ninth but fell behind again after pushing her tee shot right on the par-3, 10th. The ball settled in thick, wet rough and Redman’s chip shot fell 3 feet shy of the green. She settled for bogey.

Lee, a rookie from South Korea who nearly quit the tour this year after missing seven straight cuts, bogeyed three of the first four holes Sunday and fell off the pace with a 78. Lee tied for 15th at 6 under.

Recari had her problems, too.

She birdied the third but gave the stroke back two holes later with a bogey on the par-5 fifth. A birdie on the sixth put her in front again and she added birdies on Nos. 13 and 14.

Recari’s bogey on 17 coupled with Nocera’s birdie on the 18th cut the lead to one. With Nocera standing close by, Recari avoided a playoff by two-putting from just off the front of the green.

Brittany Lincicome, the first-round leader after a course-record 61, shot a 70 to tie for eighth at 9 under. □



Serbia’s Ana Ivanovic poses for photographers after winning the final match against Switzerland’s Patty Schnyder at the Generali Ladies tennis tournament in Linz, Austria, on Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010. Ivanovic won by 6-1 and 6-2.

Associated Press

Petkovic en route to the final. “My draw wasn’t easy so I was happy to stay in the tournament until the end.”

Ivanovic dominated the match from the start. She was broken once but won all three of Schnyder’s service games. Schnyder won just five points on serve.

Ivanovic raced to a 5-0 lead in the second set when Schnyder broke her and then held serve for the only time in the match. Ivanovic finally closed out the win with an ace on her second match point. □





Malaria PSA uses humor to spread disease awareness



FILE - In this June 14, 2010 file photo, actor B.J. Novak arrives to host the 14th Annual Webby Awards in New York.
(AP Photo/Charles Sykes, file)

By JOHN CARUCCI,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A new public service announcement irreverently suggests one way to solve the malaria problem in Africa: Recruit a cadre of sexy mosquitoes called La Femme Mosquita to seduce and kill their disease-carrying counterparts.

It's one example of the humor the nonprofit group Malaria No More hopes will spread awareness in eliminating the deadly disease.

B.J. Novak, star of the NBC sitcom "The Office," likes the "laugh with us and not at us" approach. He and other celebrities including Ed Helms, Elizabeth Banks, John Mayer, and Orlando Bloom are lending their support to the group through a series of TV spots and viral videos.

Novak said that public service announcements historically have gotten

little respect, despite the importance of their causes, making them ripe for ridicule. The ubiquitous "This is your brain on drugs" ad that showed an egg frying was satirized in "Nightmare on Elm Street" with Johnny Depp getting whacked in the head with frying pan by Freddy Krueger.

One of the funniest spots in the Malaria No More campaign stars Helms as a big-game hunter. In the three-minute video, the actor suggests alternative techniques to kill malaria-borne mosquitoes, such as biting back. Helms traveled to Senegal to observe the problem and produce the spot. He called it "an incredible adventure" that he hopes will raise awareness. He feels the campaign can educate a broad audience, and he also hopes to "piss off a few mosquitoes in the process."

Malaria was eradicated in the United

States in the early 1950s, but still looms in the third world. In Africa, 2,000 children die every day from malaria, according to Malaria No More, which breaks down to a death every 45 seconds.

Other tools to fight malaria include mosquito nets, insecticide and effective medicine. Banks sees those measures as the most effective but finds Helms' approach works, too.

"He for sure is using the other best medicine to fight malaria," Banks said. "Humor."

Most of the money raised for Malaria No More centers around \$10 donations that come from texting to the word NET to 85944. Global funding initiatives aim to end the threat of malaria in five years.

Said Novak: "Looking at it simply by the numbers, the math works out very well." □

Longer-lasting options to treat drug addiction

By LAURAN NEERGAARD,
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — New treatments for addiction to heroin or narcotic painkillers promise longer-lasting relief that may remove some day-to-day uncertainty of care: A once-a-month shot is now approved and a six-month implant is in the final testing phase.

The main treatment options have long been once-a-day medications — controversial methadone or a tablet named buprenorphine — that act as substitutes for the original drug, to suppress withdrawal and craving without the high.

Skipping a dose risks a relapse, but summoning the daily willpower to stick with treatment is "a formidable task," says National Institute on Drug Abuse director Dr. Nora Volkow.

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration approved the monthly shot Vivitrol for long-term treatment of opioid addiction — to heroin or such painkillers as morphine, Oxycontin and Vicodin.

Vivitrol works differently than methadone or buprenorphine: It blocks the high if a recovering addict slips up, and it's not addictive.

Scientists had tried a daily version of Vivitrol's ingredient, naltrexone, years ago, but too many patients skipped pills. So Alkermes Inc. created the longer-lasting version first for alcoholism in 2006, and now opioid addiction. In a study of 250 opioid addicts in Russia, more than half of Vivitrol recipients stuck with therapy for the six-month trial. Better, 36 percent stayed completely drug-free, compared with 23 percent who received dummy shots.

Next in the pipeline: A matchstick-size implant that for six months at a time slowly oozes a low dose of buprenorphine into the bloodstream, to keep

cravings tamped down. A large study published last week deemed the implant, called Probuphine, promising — just over a third of those patients, too, tested drug-free. Ongoing research partly funded by the government should show next spring if it's ready for FDA evaluation.

Which approach will work best for which patient? Scientists don't know yet; there are pros and cons to daily and long-lasting versions. Early next year, NIDA will directly compare once-a-month Vivitrol to once-a-day buprenorphine and behavioral therapy alone to help tell.

But longer-lasting options promise to help keep patients on track longer.

"Opioid addicts are notoriously bad at complying with their medication. They like to take drug holidays. They like to party on the weekend," says Dr. Katherine Beebe of Titan Pharmaceuticals, which is developing the Probuphine implant.

And long-acting options also may help make substance abuse treatment more a part of mainstream medicine. "To have these medications work effectively, you need to stay on them for long periods of time," says Dr. Patrick O'Connor of Yale University School of Medicine.

"We are really struggling to get the public and physicians to think of this more like a standard chronic disease — like diabetes, like cancer, like chronic lung disease — and not apply a special stigma to it."

About 800,000 people in the U.S. are addicted to heroin, and another 1.8 million either abuse or are dependent on opioid painkillers, Volkow says.

After initial detox, how to choose among long-term treatments?

Methadone is the cheapest but requires daily visits to a public clinic, many of which have waiting lists. Still, methadone may be the most potent choice for people who have abused heroin for many years, the hardest-to-treat patients, Volkow says.

Daily buprenorphine has increased access to care in recent years, because certain specially certified physicians can prescribe a month's supply of the pills at a time, for several hundred dollars.

Both methadone and buprenorphine require monitoring because they, too, can be abused, and some treatment programs won't use them because "their perception is you're changing one drug for another," says Volkow.

Only about 45,000 people have used Vivitrol since its approval for alcoholism in 2006; the new approval paves the way for insurance coverage of the \$1,100 shot for opioid addiction, too. It occasionally causes serious side effects such as liver damage or injection-site reactions. Also, Volkow says it won't work for people who need addiction care and pain relief at the same time — they'll still need buprenorphine.

But Volkow expects Vivitrol will attract painkiller addicts who'd never consider other options, plus people struggling with daily therapy.

T.J. Voller of Westborough, Mass., became addicted to Oxycontin after an injury at 23 and moved on to heroin. Two tries of buprenorphine worked only briefly.

"If I didn't want to take it and wanted to get high, there was nothing to stop me," explains Voller, 29. He's been on Vivitrol for nearly a year and is back in college. "I get an injection once a month and I don't have to worry. I'm not saying I don't have my bad days, but they're much more manageable." □



US President Barack Obama, pictured on October 16, admitted having made tactical errors but stood by his accomplishments Sunday in an interview weeks ahead of crucial midterm elections.



FILE - In this Feb. 16, 2010 file photo, Celine Dion arrives for the premiere of the film 'Celine: Through the Eyes of the World' in Miami Beach, Fla. Dion has been admitted to St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Fla. to prevent the early delivery of her twins according to a rep for the superstar singer. It came at the recommendation of her doctors to make sure she's near her doctors leading up to the babies' birth. Dion announced earlier this year the impending birth of two boys.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky, File)

Rep: Celine Dion hospitalized as precaution

NEW YORK — Celine Dion has been admitted to a Florida hospital to prevent the early delivery of her twins.

The superstar singer is at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Fla. The hospital said in a statement the admission was recommended to make sure she's near her doctors leading up to the babies' birth. Her rep said she is due to deliver the twins early next month.

Dion announced earlier this year that she's pregnant with two boys. She had tried for years to have more children. She and her husband, Rene Angelil, are the parents of a 9-year-old son, Rene Charles. □

Obama to appear on episode of 'Mythbusters'

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will appear on an episode of "Mythbusters," a television show that uses science to determine the truth behind urban legends.

The White House says the episode will air Dec. 8 on the Discovery Channel.

Discovery says the episode considers this question: Did Greek scientist Archimedes set fire to an invading Roman fleet using only

mirrors and the reflected rays of the sun?

Officials say the president's appearance, which has already been taped, is part of a White House push to promote math and science education. On Monday, Obama hosts a White House science fair celebrating students who have won science, technology, engineering and math competitions.

Retooled Elvis album marks a new take on the King

By ADRIAN SAINZ,
Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A re-styled version of the Elvis Presley hit "Suspicious Minds" hit radio stations on Monday, part of an album being released later this year featuring newer, more contemporary takes on many of his hits.

"Suspicious Minds" is the first single off "Viva Elvis-The Album," set for mass release Nov. 9. The 12-track compilation is a companion piece to the Las Vegas show "Viva Elvis" by Cirque du Soleil, which began in February.

The new "Suspicious Minds" and the other reworked songs on the album could strike a dissonant chord with Elvis' older fans. But the minds behind the new album said the new tracks won't lose the qualities that made them hits in the 1950s and '60s.

"I can understand why the purist may be cautious and hesitant, but the new album is a unique way to bring Elvis' music to a whole new younger audience," said Tom Cording, vice president of media relations for Legacy Recordings, Sony Music Entertainment's catalog division.

The Elvis machine is relying on fans who never saw him in person to keep revenue pouring in. Last year, Elvis generated more than \$60 million in revenue from royalties, licensing and Graceland's operations,

according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings by CKx Inc., which owns Elvis Presley Enterprises.

Erich van Tournau produced and arranged the new songs, fusing thousands of samples of Elvis' music and voice with more modern styles like punk, garage rock and hip-hop. Other tracks feature voice-overs and sound effects.

For instance, "Suspicious Minds" opens with Elvis' soulful, echoing voice and prominent piano notes, then shifts into a guitar introduction that evokes memories of U2's classic anthem "Bad." The song has a strong drum and guitar component without losing the sing-along quality of the original.

Other songs on the new album include "King Creole," "Burning Love," and "Love Me Tender," many sounding like they were released after Elvis died in August 1977. The danceable and energetic "Blue Suede Shoes" has elements of Kenny Loggins' 1984 hit "Footloose," and it features a blues harmonica and rhythmic, clapping backbeat.

"That's All Right," meanwhile, possesses the more frenetic style of Jet's 2003 rock 'n' roll anthem "Are You Gonna Be My Girl."

"Heartbreak Hotel" has traditional blues elements



An undated image provided by Sony/Legacy shows cover art for "Viva Elvis-The Album," which features re-styled versions of classics like "Blue Suede Shoes," "That's All Right," and "Suspicious Minds." "Suspicious Minds" is set to hit radio stations Monday, Oct. 18, 2010 and the album is set for mass release on Nov. 9.

(AP Photo/Sony/Legacy)

while incorporating rock guitar and a solid contribution from the horn section. And Elvis sounds fine on "Love Me Tender," but female singer Dea Norberg's presence seems out of place. Still, Elvis' talents and the original material are the foundation for the new releases, even if some of them seem overwrought or overproduced.

The album's reception seems to be mixed. For instance, Miami oldies station WMXJ-FM plans to play the new version of "Suspicious Minds." "That still has great legs,"

WMXJ program director Bill Stedman said of the song. "It wasn't an accident that they chose it as their first release."

But Jerry Dean, operations manager for Entercom Memphis' five radio stations, said he probably won't play it. Elvis — a native of Tupelo, Miss. — lived in Memphis and is still the city's most well-known figure.

"Elvis is so beloved that when you start changing his original music, then the die-hard fans don't like it," Dean said. "Some things just shouldn't be remade." □



Bank of America starts thaw in foreclosure freeze

By ALAN ZIBEL,
AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON – The pace of U.S. home foreclosures may not slow much after all. Bank of America said Monday that it plans to resume seizing more than 100,000 homes in 23 states next week. It said it has a legal right to foreclose despite accusations that documents used in the process were flawed.

It's not yet clear if other major lenders will follow suit and resume foreclosures in the states that require a judge's approval. But the move by the nation's biggest bank could give way to an industry-wide effort to push ahead with a wave of foreclosures that have depressed the housing market.

Bank of America Corp. says it's confident of its foreclosure decisions in a majority of its questionable cases. The bank is still delaying foreclosures in the 27 other states, which don't require a judge's approval. Its move comes two weeks after the bank began halting foreclosures nationwide amid allegations that bank employees signed but didn't read documents that may have contained errors. "The basis for our foreclosure decisions is accurate," Dan Frahm, a Bank of America spokesman, said in announcing the bank's new approach. The company said it plans to resubmit documents with new signatures in the 23 states that require a judge's approval

to restart the foreclosure process. It will delay fewer than 30,000 foreclosures.

Bank of America was the only lender to halt foreclosures in all 50 states. Other companies, including Ally Financial Inc.'s GMAC Mortgage unit, PNC Financial Services Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co., have halted tens of thousands of foreclosures after similar practices became public. Shares of Charlotte, N.C.-based Bank of America had been flat earlier in the day but jumped on the news. They rose 36 cents, or 3 percent, to close at \$12.34. Analysts at FBR Capital Markets said in a note to clients that the bank's announcement demonstrates that the issue may be "overblown." □



Brian T. Moynihan, CEO of Bank of America and Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley speak at the Boston College Chief Executives' Club in Boston, Massachusetts October 14, 2010

Oil prices settle higher as stock markets rise

NEW YORK – Oil prices on Monday bounced back above \$83 a barrel, as stocks rose on encouraging earnings reports and the dollar weakened against the euro. Benchmark crude for November delivery rose \$1.83 to settle at \$83.08 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. At the pump, gas prices leveled off at a national average of \$2.832 for a gallon of regular, down a fraction of a cent from Sunday. After a two-week climb, pump prices are about 10 cents higher than a month ago and nearly 29 cents higher than a year ago. Drivers in California, Alaska and Hawaii pay the most for gas: well over \$3 a gallon in most places. The lowest prices are across much of the South, where gas stations charge an average of \$2.65 to \$2.71 a gallon. Oil prices got a boost Monday from rising stock prices. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained about 60 points in late morning trading. Financial shares rose after Citigroup announced better-than-expected earnings. The NASDAQ and the S&P 500 rose as well. A number of major companies report this week, as earnings season begins in earnest. Investors will watch those results for signs of the nation's economic health and the prospects for stronger energy demand.

The dollar weakened after some early gains against the euro and other currencies. Oil, priced in dollars, can become more appealing to foreign buyers as the dollar gets weaker. With the Federal Reserve likely to take action next month to keep the economic recovery going, the dollar is likely to fall again and keep oil prices at or above current levels.

"The fundamentals still do not look strong,

but suddenly \$80 a barrel looks like it may be becoming a new support level rather than a resistance line," said a report from KBC Energy Economics in London.

The Energy Department's weekly report on crude inventories on Wednesday may affect prices as well. Although supplies are abundant, shrinking inventories could support higher prices. Last week's EIA report showed a decline in inventories, but that did not immediately boost oil prices. "It is difficult to say, for sure, that those declines did anything to help prices move higher over the longer term," said energy consultants Cameron Hanover. "Crude oil stocks are likely to depend upon crude oil imports, which are extremely low right now. We cannot expect them to remain this low."

Some analysts said last week's decline in crude supplies was due mainly to fewer imports of oil. The price of natural gas prices continue to fall. The contract settled at \$3.431 per 1,000 cubic feet, down 10.4 cents. More mild weather across much of the country won't help drain the bulging supplies on hand. "Weather forecasts continue to provide little support, with normal to above-normal temperatures expected for the remainder of this month and into early next month throughout the eastern half of the country," said Addison Armstrong, senior director of market research at Tradition Energy. In other Nymex trading, heating oil rose 4.53 cents to settle at \$2.2761 a gallon and gasoline gained 4.77 cents to settle at \$2.1515 a gallon. In London, Brent crude added \$1.92 to settle at \$84.37 a barrel on the ICE futures exchange. □



Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali Al-Naimi, center, Abdalla Salem El-Badri, Secretary General of the OPEC from Libya, right, and Assistant minister, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman Al-Saud attend the international energy symposium & Riyadh international petroleum, gas and petrochemical industries exhibition in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Monday, Oct. 18, 2010.

(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

Report: Facebook apps transmitted personal info

By BARBARA ORTUTAY,

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — The latest Facebook privacy fiasco shows that the world's largest online social hub is having a hard time putting this thorny issue behind it even as it continues to attract users and become indispensable to many of them.

The Wall Street Journal reported Monday that several popular Facebook applications have been transmitting users' personal identifying information to dozens of advertising and Internet tracking companies. Facebook said it is working to fix the problem, and was quick to point out that the leaks were not intentional, but a consequence of basic Web mechanisms.

"In most cases, developers did not intend to pass this information, but did so because of the technical details of how browsers work," said Mike Vernal, a Facebook engineer, in a blog post Monday.

In a statement, Facebook said there is "no evidence that any personal information was misused or even collected as a result of this issue." Even so, some privacy advocates said it's problematic that the information was leaked at all, regardless of what happened to it. Facebook needs its users to trust it with their data because if they don't, they won't use the site to share as much as they do now.

"Facebook has been assuring users for a



The logo of social networking website 'Facebook' is displayed on a computer screen in London 2007. Many popular applications on Facebook are violating the social network's rules and transmitting identifying information about users to advertising and Internet tracking companies, The Wall Street Journal reported.

very long time that their personal information will not be available to advertisers," said Marc Rotenberg, executive director of the Washington-based Electronic Privacy Information Center.

At issue are user IDs, the unique identifier tied to every person on Facebook. These IDs can be used to find users' names, gender and any information they've made visible to "everyone" on the Internet through their privacy settings.

"It's their entire friends' lists, their likes, their biographical information," Rotenberg said. "Facebook gets access to it and now it's leaking out to advertisers."

The Journal said these IDs could be included in the "referers" that websites send to other sites to tell them where the user came from. Normally, these wouldn't tell the sites who these users are. But that becomes possible when the

referers include a person's social network ID.

In one case, these IDs were then embedded in a "cookie," which tracks users as they navigate the Web, by an online data collection company, the Journal said. That meant that Facebook users' names and browsing habits could be linked up.

The company, RapLeaf, said this did not happen intentionally and it has since fixed the problem.

"As of last week, no Facebook ids are being transmitted to ad networks in conjunction with the use of any Rapleaf service," the company said in a blog post Sunday.

Facebook's more than 500 million users share varying amounts of private information online, and over the years the company has come under fire from privacy advocates for pushing people to reveal more about themselves to

everyone on the Internet. At the same time, the company also allows users to set up privacy settings for nearly everything they share on the site.

There are some exceptions, though. Users' names, profile photo and gender if they specify it are always public. For a slew of other details, Facebook gives users controls so that they can hide friends list, photos, work information and e-mail addresses.

Facebook said the knowledge of a user's

ID does not give anyone access to that user's private information. But that's not the problem, said Peter Eckersley, senior staff technologist for the digital rights group Electronic Frontier Foundation.

"The problem is that ad companies can know who you are at all," he said.

Eckersley said the "referrer" problem isn't new, nor is it necessarily limited to Facebook. The Journal did not mention other social networks such as MySpace, which is owned by News Corp., like the Journal.

"We urgently need investigations to determine how many other social networks may be suffering from this type of data leak," he said.

A MySpace representative did not immediately return a message for comment Monday afternoon.

Some, such as media critic Jeff Jarvis, came to Facebook's defense, calling the Journal report an overreaction since the user information was already publicly available.

"The White Pages reveal I use the phone. So?" Jarvis wrote on Twitter. □

Report: Tech spending to grow slowly through 2014

SEATTLE — Growth in worldwide corporate spending on computers, servers and other information technology will be "timid and at times lackluster" over the next five years, according to analysts at research firm Gartner Inc.

Businesses are on track to spend \$2.4 trillion on technology this year, a 2.4 percent increase, and Gartner said Monday it expects corporate information technology spending worldwide to increase 3.1 percent in 2011 to \$2.5 trillion.

By 2014, the total amount companies spend on technology is expected to total \$2.8 trillion, Gartner said.

"Several key vertical industries, such as manufacturing and financial services, will not see IT budgets recover to pre-2008 levels before 2012 or 2013," said Peter Sondergaard, Gartner's global head of research, in a statement.

Technology spending will grow faster in developing countries than in developed countries, Sondergaard said.

Gartner, a technology research group, is based in Stamford, Conn. The forecast was delivered at a conference organized by the research group in Orlando, Fla. □



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OBAMA'S WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE HAS COST HIM DEARLY

By Cynthia Tucker
WASHINGTON

Amplified by the right-wing message machine, Republicans paint President Obama as an unyielding left-winger, an unreconstructed liberal who refuses to compromise. The president's critics have turned the truth inside out: One of Obama's greatest political weaknesses has been his stubborn -- and unrequited -- love for bipartisanship.

The president has made some of his biggest mistakes trying to woo a GOP opposition that has committed itself to frustrating him at every turn. If he had ignored recalcitrant Republicans, for example, his health care legislation might have become law without months of damaging political drama.

In an interview last week in his West Wing office, David Axelrod, one of Obama's closest advisers, acknowledged that the administration had been surprised by the unified Republican resistance to the president's agenda.

"Well, I think we miscalculated," Axelrod said. "We had the idea that, particularly in a time of national crisis, there would be more of an inclination to work together."

"One of the bracing moments was when the president was on his way over ... to Capitol Hill to talk to the Republican House caucus about the Recovery Act. They issued a press release while he was on his way over to say that they were going to vote en masse against it. And that was a signal ... of things to come."

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

passed in February 2009 without a single vote from a Republican in the House and the backing of just three in the Senate, even though nearly a third of it came in the form of tax cuts -- usually a GOP tool for fixing anything. Most economists have credited the stimulus package with creating jobs and helping to end the recession, but Republicans continue to denounce it as boondoggle that blew a hole in the federal budget.

"I think the Republicans have been diabolically clever about how they've portrayed this," Axelrod conceded. "They stood on the sidelines and made a decision that 'We're going to let him wrestle with this mess that we created. And then in two years we can try and hang him with it.'"

After the stimulus, Obama and his Democratic allies tried to negotiate with GOP leaders on health insurance reform -- a decision that gave critics time to mischaracterize the proposal and gin up opposition. Remember death panels? Government-funded abortions? Rationing?

Still, Obama kept going back with proposals meant to lure a few Republican votes for his agenda. That led to his disastrous announcement, just weeks before the Deepwater Horizon explosion, to expand offshore drilling.

While Axelrod denied that the announcement amounted to a quid pro quo, Obama clearly believed that Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and a couple of other GOP senators would, in exchange, support groundbreaking energy legislation that included a price on carbon emissions.



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Obama didn't get what he bargained for. The months-long environmental disaster dominated news coverage, obscured the president's work on the economy and gave his critics more fodder to claim his administration is incompetent. And, since the accident forced the White House to tiptoe away from its eager embrace of offshore drilling, it also provided Graham an excuse to back away from energy legislation.

A naive expectation of bipartisan cooperation hasn't been Obama's only mistake. He waited until the last possible moment to try to inspire his base for the midterm elections. Unlike Ronald Reagan, whose poll ratings were slightly lower than Obama's just before the 1982 midterm elections, Obama didn't take every possible opportunity to pin the economic mess on his predecessor.

Nor did the president tamp down the huge expectations generated by his historic election. That has proved costly, as was clear during the president's encounter with the "exhausted" Velma Hart, a supporter who questioned him during a recent town hall-style meeting.

"There's no doubt that part of what we've encountered is the mismatch between very, very high expectations and the magnitude of the

problems that we've been called upon to solve," Alexrod said.

But the expected Republican gains in the coming midterm elections may solve one of Obama's problems: his misplaced faith in logic, persuasion and cooperation in the national interest. Tea-party-fueled anger has produced a wave of GOP candidates for whom the word "compromise" is akin to treason. There can be no miscalculation about their intentions. □

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AP Enterprise: Scientists lower Gulf health grade



In this Oct. 14, 2010 picture, an oil-covered crab crawls on a glove worn by Plaquemines Parish coastal zone director P.J. Hahn in Bay Jimmy near the Louisiana coast. Six months after the rig explosion that led to the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history, damage to the Gulf of Mexico can be measured more in increments than extinctions, say scientists polled by The Associated Press. The scientists saw a hit for the region's wetlands, an already weakened massive natural incubator for shrimp, crabs, oysters and fish.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

ST. PETE BEACH, Fla. — Six months after the rig explosion that led to the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history, damage to the Gulf of Mexico can be measured more in increments than extinctions, say scientists polled by The Associated Press.

In an informal survey, 35 researchers who study the Gulf lowered their rating of its ecological health by several points, compared to their assessment before the BP well gushed millions of gallons of oil. But the drop in grade wasn't dramatic. On a scale of 0 to 100, the overall average grade for the oiled Gulf was 65 — down from 71 before the spill.

This reflects scientists'

views that the spilled 172 million gallons of oil further eroded what was already a beleaguered body of water — tainted for years by farm runoff from the Mississippi River, overfishing, and oil from smaller spills and natural seepage.

The spill wasn't the near-death blow initially feared. Nor is it the glancing strike that some relieved experts and officials said it was in midsummer. "It is like a concussion," said Larry McKinney, who heads the Gulf of Mexico research center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. "We got hit hard and we certainly are seeing some symptoms of it."

Will the symptoms stick around

or just become yesterday's headaches? That's the question that couldn't be answered at a conference earlier this month of 150 scientists at a hotel on a Florida beach untainted by the spill. The St. Pete Beach gathering was organized by the White House science office to coordinate future research.

"There's the sense that it's not as bad as we had originally feared; it's not that worst case scenario," said Steve Lohrenz, a biological oceanographer at the University of Southern Mississippi. "There's still a lot of wariness of what that long-term impact is going to be." Steve Murawski, the chief fisheries scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, compared scientists research to a TV crime drama: "It's the end of the story that counts, not all the steps along the way."

We're only at the 30-minute break in an hour-long drama, Murawski said.

And there's a plot twist. Research findings already released have led scientists and the government to shift their focus from the sea's surface to deeper waters and the ocean bottom.

A month-long cruise by Georgia researchers on the ship Oceanus reported oil on the sea floor that they suspect is BP's but haven't proven yet. Government officials still question whether there is oil on the sea floor, but

the Georgia scientists say the samples smelled like an auto repair shop. They took 78 cores of sediment and only five had live worms in them. Usually they would all have life, said University of Georgia scientist Samantha Joye. She called it a "graveyard for the macrofauna."

"The fact that there isn't living fauna is a signal that something happened to these sites and these sediments," Joye said in a phone interview Friday. "The horrible thing is they've been inundated with this oily material... There's dead animals on the bottom and it stinks to high heaven of oil."

University of South Florida's Ernst Peebles said the oil on the floor "is undermining the ecosystem from the bottom up."

David Hollander, also at South Florida, found some of the first plumes of the oil beneath the surface, something that government officials first disputed but now concede is real. Keeping the oil off the surface minimized damage to wetlands, beaches and some wildlife, so in some ways, "we dodged the bullet," he said.

There are several reasons a sizable amount of oil didn't make it to the surface where it could do more visual harm. For one thing, BP used 1.8 million gallons of chemical dispersants to break up the oil. But scientists give more credit to the high pressure and high temperature of the gusher that

spewed the oil in droplets so tiny, they didn't float to the surface.

"We still don't know the long-term effect," Hollander said. Scientists worry the oil deep below will get into plankton and the food web, maybe not killing species directly but causing genetic mutations, stress or weakening some species, with effects that will only be seen years later.

"I think populations are going to be affected for years to come," said Diane Blake, a Tulane University biochemist. "This is going to cause selective (evolutionary) pressure that's going to change the Gulf in ways we don't even know yet."

It was a long-term assault from the well. From April 20, when the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded, killing 11 people, to July 15 when the well was initially plugged, oil bled at a prodigious rate that BP and government officials had a hard time understanding. Initially, officials said only 42,000 gallons a day was flowing, but government scientists eventually said it was as much as 2.6 million gallons a day.

One of the species mentioned most often during two days of scientific sessions in Florida doesn't even live in the Gulf. It's herring. After 1989's much smaller Exxon Valdez spill, it took awhile for the effects on Alaska's herring to be noticed, but the once prolific species crashed to extremely low levels. While other species in Prince William Sound recovered, the herring population has yet to bounce back. And Gulf researchers are wondering if that sort of thing will happen again.

If one species in the Gulf is likely to wind up like the herring, it's probably the bluefin tuna. And answers about its fate may be sitting in a lab in Poland.

Thanks to a 30-year agreement that dates to Cold War politics, that distant lab is analyzing samples of Gulf water collected in the spill area for the U.S. government. The tests are to find out what the oil did to the larvae. □

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Ministro chileno Golborne ve fama y futuro político tras rescate

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - El exitoso rescate de 33 mineros en Chile tras una hazaña de supervivencia catapultó al ministro de Minería, Laurence Golborne, como un “héroe” nacional que abandonó el anonimato y ya se posiciona como uno de los más populares en el Gobierno. Golborne, ingeniero civil y la cara más visible del proceso que sacó el miércoles pasado a los mineros de las entrañas de la tierra tras más de dos meses de encierro a unos 700 metros de profundidad, disfruta un alza en los índices de aprobación.

Algunos analistas políticos consideran que el presidente Sebastián Piñera podría sacar provecho a Golborne y promoverlo a una cartera más visible como Obras Públicas o Vivienda, que le permita sostener el capital político ganado principalmente en sectores populares.

Mientras que otros, en una apuesta más arriesgada cuando el Gobierno de Piñera recién cumple siete meses y pese a la poca experiencia política del ministro, lo



Foto de archivo: El ministro chileno de Minería, Laurence Golborne (izquierda), prueba una cápsula usada en las operaciones de rescate de 33 mineros atrapados en el norte de Chile, sep 25 2010. REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado (CHILE)

señalan como un candidato viable para el oficialismo de cara a los comicios presidenciales del 2014.

“Creo que (su rol) justifica que esté dentro de los posibles presidenciables (...) Creo que tiene una gran opción de convertirse en líder político”, dijo en la noche del domingo el ministro de Interior, Rodrigo Hinzpeter. Pero hay quienes creen que la falta de un respaldo partidario clásico sería un impedimento insalvable para que Golborne pueda meterse en la carrera por la presidencia.

“En Chile no hay experiencia de alguien que aparece de repente sin lazos políticos”, dijo a Reuters Ricardo Israel, director del Centro Internacional para la Calidad de la Democracia.

Golborne, nacido en 1961 y con seis hijos, era conocido en el ámbito empresarial pero carecía de experiencia política hasta que asumió la cartera de minería en marzo. Tras unos meses en los que pasó desapercibido, el rescate de “los 33” lo dejó en el centro de la escena.

Sus declaraciones eran las más esperadas por la prensa para reportar los avances del operativo, que generalmente informaba antes a los familiares de los mineros.

El rescate también le permitió dejar atrás las críticas por viajar a Sudáfrica para ver el Mundial del fútbol en vez de liderar las negociaciones sobre un alza del impuesto a la minería, además de soltar una fuerte carcajada en medio de una sesión legislativa.

También hizo que Golborne pasara de ser criticado por las familias de los mineros al inicio del operativo, cuando dijo que las posibilidades de que los trabajadores estuvieran vivos eran muy pocas, a ser una especie de estrella de rock a quienes todos saludan, le sacan fotos y le piden autógrafos.

“El era el ministro más desconocido, incluso parecía candidato a salir del gabinete después de sus errores (...) Se le abrió la posibilidad de una carrera política que hasta hace poco parecía imposible”, destacó Israel. □

Ecuador:

104 policías enfrentan procesos disciplinarios

QUITO (AP) - Unos 104 policías enfrentan procesos disciplinarios tras la sublevación del 30 de septiembre, dijo el lunes el ministro del Interior, Gustavo Jalkh.

En declaraciones a periodistas señaló que “me ha comunicado que hay alrededor de 104 policías que se encuentran en procesos disciplinarios, unos procesos de arrestos disciplinarios menores, otros en tribunales de disciplina, las investigaciones continúan”.

Precisó que las averiguaciones buscan constatar “los niveles de responsabilidad, aquí no hay que poner a todo el mundo en el mismo saco, ni entrar sin las respectivas providencias de un debido proceso ... determinar niveles de responsabilidad”. No dio detalles de cuántos civiles y policías están procesados.

Quienes enfrentan tales procesos son presuntos responsables del alzamiento cuando una protesta policial derivó en agresiones al presidente Rafael Correa, que tuvo que huir a un hospital, donde quedó retenido por varias horas y fue rescatado por un asalto militar. Ese día se produjeron 8 muertos y unos 270 heridos. Tales hechos dejaron 14 policías de tropa, un oficial y un civil apresados, además de 13 oficiales de policía fueron puestos en situación de disponibilidad, paso previo a la baja. El fiscal general, Washington Pesántez, dijo a periodistas que “confiamos en esta institución (policía) pensamos que es importante esta autodepuración, esperamos que en el menor tiempo posible la policía se pueda recuperar”. □

Ecuador:

Sin contacto con mineros atrapados

QUITO (AP) - No se ha establecido ningún contacto con dos mineros atrapados en una mina de oro desde el viernes y donde se cumple un trabajo ininterrumpido para ubicarlos, dijo el lunes Carlos Pareja, ministro interino de Recursos Naturales No Renovables. El secretario que se encuentra en la mina, en el sur del país, declaró a la prensa que “no ha habido ningún contacto, lamentablemente”. Decenas de mineros llegaban hasta la zona minera de Portovelo, 400 kilómetros al suroeste de la capital, a fin de prestar su contingente y ofrecerse como voluntarios en las tareas de rescate que se cumplen a unos 150 metros de profundidad donde quedaron atrapados cuatro mineros. Los restos de dos fueron recuperados el sábado.

El subsecretario de Respuesta de la Secretaría de Riesgos, Felipe Bazán, dijo que “esperamos que los dos estén con vida, por eso están nuestros equipos ahí, no estamos escatimando ninguna clase de esfuerzo y vamos a permanecer todo el tiempo que sea necesario hasta dar con el paradero de estas dos personas”. □



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